

Curling in Ross-shire

"There is a small pond about twenty yards from Elswick House and when it froze we were delighted and begged and borrowed skates which we used that night when we were off duty and though it was dark we enjoyed it and were returning to work next day when we met Neil Gunn. More in sorrow than in anger he pointed out, to our horror, that we had skated over and churned up the local Curling Club's rink. He showed us how to throw a curling stone - I think to let us see how it bumped and went off course thanks to the damage we had done!"

[Belle Maltman, a VAD nurse stationed at Elswick House, near Strathpeffer, in 1941.]

Extract from Glimpses of Gunn courtesy of Mrs Ann Yule and the family of the late Allan Haldane.



Ross-shire curlers in action at outdoor bonspiel, Grantown on Spey 29 December 1992.

The accounts which follow were compiled at the time of the Caberfeidh Curling Club's sesquicentennial celebrations.

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FOREWORD

No one knows the origins of the game of curling. We may all amuse ourselves with ideas and images of ancients experimenting on ice with stones, sliding them hither and thither and delighting in the variety of the resulting manoeuvres and sounds. That all comes unstuck when, to paraphrase the philosopher David Hume, we are required to produce evidence of fact rather than conjecture, however well-intentioned.

Scotland is recognised as the home of the game and in 1883 Queen Victoria granted the title of Royal to the Caledonian Curling Club.

We know, from records published by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, that organised curling existed in the seventeenth century. The oldest Scottish club currently recorded is Kinross, instituted in 1668. Many clubs in the central and borders areas of Scotland were formed subsequently during the eighteenth century but the north of Scotland appears to have had no curling club formed until Elgin in 1850, followed by Caberfeidh in 1855.

Scots introduced the game overseas, principally in Canada in the late eighteenth century, and Canada is now easily the biggest curling nation.

Curling took place in the north of Scotland prior to that time but we may assume that it was on an informal, however competitive, basis. Jack Frost dictated the frequency on pond, loch or man-made outdoor facility, and held sway until the latter part of the twentieth century when ice rinks were built at Aviemore, Inverness, Elgin and Brora. Sadly, Aviemore and Brora ice rinks have now closed but the sport is still played by more than 1200 curlers at Inverness and Elgin. A significant number of those curlers can boast success at National, International and Olympic levels.



Captain Roderick W K Stirling

The appointment by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, four years ago, of a Curling Development Officer has led to the recruitment of significant numbers of new curlers to the sport, particularly at junior level, and to the provision of increased volunteer coaching services for curlers of all ages and abilities.

Curling has been a source of enjoyment for the people of the Highlands for many years. Roderick MacKay and Captain Roderick W K Stirling of the Fairburn club both provide proof of that assertion as each has been awarded the Royal Caledonian Curling Club's gold medal to mark 50 years' membership of their club and participation in the sport (see photo). They are the first curlers in the Highlands to achieve this distinction. Jack Frost willing, they will not be the last!

Hugh A MacKay
13 January 2007



Members of Caberfeidh Curling Club on a visit to John Haig & Co in the 1970s. Back row: ? ? 3rd row: ? ? ? ? ? ? 2nd row: __ Ross; Eric Munro; Jack Grant; Alex Maclean; ? ? Front row: ? ? ? Ian Sutherland; ? ? RCHS would be grateful if blanks could be filled.

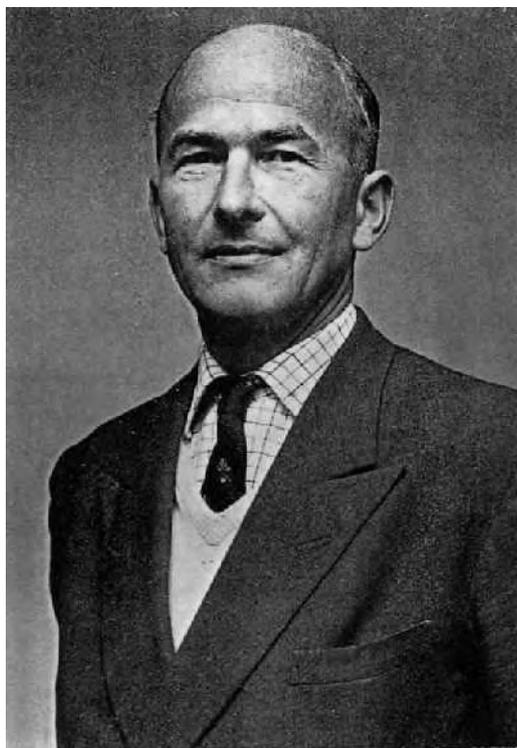
ROSS PROVINCE CURLING CLUB 1853 to 2003

Club	Instituted	Admitted RCCC	Notes	Number
Allangrange	1936	1936	Ceased	1
Alness	1895	1896		2
Ardgay-Bonar	1887	1893	Ceased	3
Avoch	1880	1894		4
Belmaduthy	1860	1864		5
Bear Scotland	2001	?		6
Caberfeidh	1855	1857	Oldest serving club	7
Chanonry	?	1898	Ceased	8
Cromarty	1889	1893	Ceased	9
Dingwall (See also Highland River Purification Board)	1872	1872	Ceased 1938 Re-born 1993 Ceased 1999	10
Dornoch	1880	?	Now Sutherland Province	11
Easter Ross and St Duthus	1853	1861	Ceased St Duthus later amalgamated with Loch Eye	12
Edderton	?	1902	Ceased	13
Fairburn	1885	1888		14
Fearn and Loch Eye	1897	1898	Now Loch Eye + St Duthus in Sutherland Province	15
Ferindonald	1889	1897	Ceased	16
Highland River Purification Board	1981	1981	Ceased in 1993	17
Invergordon	2003	2003	Invergordon Ac. Club	
Killearnan	1929	1930		19
Ledgowan	1973	1973	Ceased	20
Logie Easter	1896	1898	Ceased	21
Muir of Ord	1892	1893		22
Northern Police	?	?	Ceased	23
Resolis	1896	1897	Ceased	24
Rosehaugh	1880	1888	Ceased	25
Ross Ladies	1968	1968		26
Seniors	1993	-	Non-affiliated	27
Strathpeffer Spa	1885	1885		28

ROSS AND CROMARTY CURLING PROVINCE PRESIDENTS

1893 - Sir Kenneth S Mackenzie - Caberfeidh
1896 - Sir Hector Munro, Bt. - Ferindonald
1949 - Rev John Sellar - Caberfeidh
1951 - T A Anderson Rae - Alness
1952 - Dr John Anderson - Killearnan
1955 - Donald Maclean - Allangrange
1956 - J D Wilson - Caberfeidh
1958 - A J Mann - Avoch
1959 - W Smith - Strathpeffer
1960 - James Macintyre - Fairburn
1961 - Iain Mackay - Muir of Ord
1962 - Allan Stewart - Belmaduthy
1963 - Allan Moore - Alness
1964 - Iain Macleod - Beauly
1965 - A C Robertson - Strathpeffer
1966 - Donald Bain - Killearnan
1967 - Roderick Stirling - Fairburn
1968 - Major Allan Cameron - Allangrange
1969 - P B Macintyre - Caberfeidh
1970 - Ken Davidson - Loch Eye
1971 - W Malcolm - Alness
1972 - Sandy Porter - Strathpeffer
1973 - A Wilson - Avoch
1974 - John Scott Fraser - Belmaduthy
1976 - Sandy Gordon - Alness
1978 - Hamish Sutherland - Allangrange
1980 - Major Allan Cameron - Allangrange
1982 - Angus Christie - Caberfeid
1984 - Peter Fraser - Belmaduthy
1986 - Helen Munro - Ross Ladies
1988 - Roderick Stirling - Fairburn
1990 - Michael Paul - Belmaduthy
1992 - Eric Munro - Caberfeidh
1994 - Arthur MacArthur - Avoch
1996 - Stewart Christie - Dingwall
1998 - Stuart Torrie - Fairburn
2000 - Hugh Mackay - Caberfeidh
2002 - Gordon Macdonald - Muir of Ord
2004 - Tom Inglis - Muir of Ord

ALLANGRANGE CURLING CLUB



MAJOR ALLAN CAMERON
President, R.C.C.C.

Major Allan Cameron

Major Allan Cameron of Allangrange is the only Ross-shire curler to become President of the Royal Club. 'The Major', as he is popularly known, was also a leading player and has won many competitions in Scotland and abroad. He was the initiator of the 'Johnny Walker' tournament, at Aviemore, long one of the outstanding international events in the Scottish curling calendar. He has always taken a keen interest in young curlers and has encouraged Ross & Cromarty District Council to support them whenever possible.

[Allan Cameron died in 2008]

"It was agreed by the following to form a Curling Club, to be called the Allangrange Curling Club James Mackenzie, Donald Maclean, Robert Allison, John Fraser, George MacGregor."

This is the opening entry in the Allangrange minute book, headed "Teandore, February 1st 1936".

Allangrange originated as an off-shoot of the Killearnan club and was intended for members "to be enrolled below Allangrange Station". The first Honorary Presidents were Captain R S and Mrs Fraser-MacKenzie, from whom ground for a curling pond was granted. The first President was Mr James MacKenzie, Millbank. The regular members at the time of the first AGM (8 April 1936) were - in addition to those already mentioned - John Younie, Ken MacRae, John MacRae and Matthew Symonds.

The bar to membership 'above' Allangrange Station was subsequently removed at the second AGM, on 26 September 1936, but intending members had to be voted in by two-thirds of the existing

members. All of these early meetings were held in the school at Artafallie. The annual subscription was set at five shillings.

By October 1938 the members had built a clubhouse. Specifically mentioned are John Mackintosh and George MacGregor, who appear to have built it, and a number of members who subscribed £10 in total for materials.

The Grand Match, at this time, was held at Carsebreck, and every AGM contains a reference to the club entry to this competition. Presumably Carsebreck was chosen because of its proximity to the main Perth-Stirling railway line, which allowed easy access for curlers with their burden of Ailsa granite.

The AGM of 26 September 1939 contains the following motion: "that members should not be called upon to pay subscriptions this year, owing to the National Crisis". Club membership at this point reached 25, of whom, among the new members, were Andrew and Alastair Fraser, Alcaig; Alfred and John MacWilliam, Garguston; Hector MacLennan, Newton of Ferintosh; and the Rev G Ross Barnett.

Donald MacLean became President in 1940, becoming Honorary President in 1942. Allangrange is remarkable in that minutes are recorded throughout the whole wartime period. The club was involved during this time in fundraising for the Royal Northern Infirmary; very little curling took place.

Major Allan Cameron became a club member at the AGM of 12 October 1948, when the President was Sir Kerr Fraser Tytler. Later Presidents include Hector MacLennan, Alex Maclean, John Leggatt, R Macleod, A Anderson, A Logan and then, in 1957, Major Cameron.

The contribution by Major Cameron to North curling is considerable, but no history of the Allangrange club would be complete without mention of the Maclean family - Donald Jnr, Alex, Ian and Fraser, who were the mainstay of a very successful Allangrange rink and carried all before them in the sixties at both Provincial and Area level. Regrettably, at the present time, this wonderful record is in eclipse but, we hope, not permanently.

ALNESS

Instituted 1895 Admitted 1896



Curling At Alness

1904

President - Major Mackenzie

Vice-President - Major Walker

Representative Members - Major Mackenzie, Major Walker

Chaplain - Rev W L W Brown

Treasurer and Secretary - Hector Ross

Committee or Council of Management -

Major Mackenzie, Rev W Brown, Wm. Rae, Major Walker, Jas. Henderson, Robert Walker, H Ross, Jas. Forbes

Honorary Members -

Fred. Shoolbred of Gildermorrie (Kildermory), C W Dyson-Perrins of Ardross, Stewart C Munro of Teaninich

Ordinary Members (regular) -

Major Mackenzie, Joseph Reid, David Cramb, A Maciver, Rev W L W Brown, Hugh Ross, Jas. McLaren, J D Muir, Major Walker, T W Cuthbert, James Knowles, Don. Mackenzie, D Mackay, Robt. Walker, Peter Mackay, Jas. Henderson, James Forbes, Jack Henderson, John Sutherland, John Ross, Hector Ross, J H Jamieson, Joseph Ross, Wm. Mackenzie, R Macfarlane

Ordinary Members (occasional) -

Wm Stewart, R C Munro Ferguson of Novar, MP, Arch. Watson, J Fowler, Rev D Ferguson, J Cran, A B Davidson, Alex. R Munro, Colin Dingwall

2004

President - R Baxter

Representative Members -

Secretary - J McHarg

Treasurer - R Baxter

Match Secretary -

Ice Rink - Inverness

Members (ordinary) -

R Baxter, A Chappell, W Gill, Mrs C Macrae, J McHarg, C Page,

A Robertson, B Weaver

The name of Alness first appears in the competition of 1896 organised by the Ross-shire Association. The RCCC Annual of 1903 gives their President as Major Mackenzie and Vice-President Major Walker. At this point the Club comprised more than thirty members.

Mr T A Anderson Rae, from the Alness Club, became President of the Province in October 1951 and, again, in 1964, the Alness Club provided the Province President in the person of Mr Allan Moore. At this time the first League programme was proposed. Subsequently the Premier League became a competition for the Allan Moore Trophy.

More recently, in 1976, Mr Sandy Gordon of the Alness Club became Ross-shire President. His particular contribution to Ross-shire curling was his recognition of the need to encourage youngsters into the game. During his presidency schools' curling took hold and many of the best curlers in Ross-shire today owe a great deal to his foresight.

ARDGAY-BONAR

(Ross and Sutherland)

1904

Patrons -

Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of Skibo

R T Coupland, Esq., of Gruinards

Patronesses -

Mrs Carnegie of Skibo

Mrs Hadwen of Balblair

President - John MacLeod, Ardgay

Vice-Presidents -

D Munro

W L Robertson

Representative Members -

C MacPherson, MD, Edinr.

J Macleod, Ardgay

Chaplain - Rev J W MacDonald, MA, BD

Treasurer and Secretary - J A Ellis, Ardgay

Committee or Council of Management -

D Shaw (convener), J Macpherson, J Fraser, W L. Robertson, W Moir, J A Ellis, J Ross

Honorary Members -

Sir Chas. Ross, Bart., of Balnagown; J A Brooke, Esq., of Fearn;

Rev J W MacDonald, MA; F T Gervers, Esq., of Amat; Col. Platt of Gruinards; Captain Stirling, Gledfield; W R Brown, Esq., Ardgay

Ordinary Members (regular) -

J MacPherson, J Fraser, D Shaw, J Macleod, W. L. Robertson, Donald Munro, W Moir, Jas. A Ellis,

Dr J MacRae, F Munro, Norman Ross,

A L. Macmillan, John Ross, And. A Munro, A Anderson, John Cameron, D Sutherland, MA, W

Wooley, Lieut.-Col. Macgregor, MD

Ordinary Members (occasional) -

W T Brown, Ardgay; J Brown, Invergordon; C MacPherson, MD, Edinr.

AVOCH



1904

Patron - J Douglas Fletcher, Esq., of Rosehaugh

Patronesses -

Miss Hope, Rosehaugh House

Miss Stephen, Avoch House

President - Colonel Fitzroy Stephen, CB, Avoch House

Vice-President - Alex. McKenzie, Esq., of Breda

Representative Members - Rev Spence Ross, Rev John Gibson

Chaplain - Rev Alfred M Philip

Treasurer - John Smith

Secretary - John Macleay

Committee or Council of Management -

Rev Sp. Ross, Provost Geddie, Dr Cameron, John Munro, Rod. Macdonald, James Thompson, John Smith
Honorary Members - J Douglas Fletcher, J St Quentin

2004

(Instituted 1952 Admitted 1952)

President - Michael Wilson
Representative Members - Arthur MacArthur, Michael Wilson
Secretary - Arthur MacArthur
Treasurer - Arthur MacArthur
Match Secretary - Arthur MacArthur
Ice Rink - Inverness
Members (ordinary) -
Mrs S Jack, A MacArthur, Mrs R MacArthur, L. Macaskill,
R Macdonald, Ms K Maciver, N Maciver, L Macleman, Ms J Maxwell, M Wilson

ROSS-SHIRE CURLING PROVINCE CENTENARY 1893 - 1993

At the present time Avoch Curling Club is the only club at the eastern end of the Black Isle, but it was a very different picture in 1903. Curling clubs listed then included Chanonry, Cromarty, Resolis and Rosehaugh, as well as Avoch.

Of these, the only club present at the inaugural Provincial meeting on 22 November 1893 was that of Rosehaugh, represented by Mr Thomas Henderson. This club had been instituted in 1880 and was admitted to the Royal Club in 1888. In those days of outdoor curling, their home venue was the pond in front of the now demolished Rosehaugh House. This latter act - one of astonishing institutional vandalism - has never been forgotten on the Black Isle.

The major influence in the Rosehaugh Club was J D Fletcher, an entrepreneur who had made his fortune in the international development of the port of Liverpool. He not only influenced local curling on the Black Isle but was prominent in provincial affairs, and he it was who presented the young association with their first trophy, in 1894 "to be played for inter-club competition".

The first mention of the Avoch club was at a Provincial meeting of 7 November 1894, at which both Avoch rinks were drawn to play Dingwall rinks in the first inter-club bonspiel held under the auspices of the new Association of Ross-shire curlers. This bonspiel was played at Muir of Ord on 12 January 1895 - "the ice was good in the early part of the day but a thaw latterly set in".

The Avoch club joined the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1894. J Douglas Fletcher was patron in these early years. President was Colonel Fitzroy Stephen, CB, of Avoch House, and secretary John MacLeay.

The influence of the Royal Club was apparent at this time in their encouragement of competition for District Medals. A match on 17 December 1908 between Avoch and Beaully clubs resulted in a win for Avoch by 14 shots, and again on 21 December 1909 Avoch defeated Muir of Ord by 10 shots. Both of these matches were played on the pond across the Avoch burn and there are frequent

references to a need for improvement to the access bridge. The bridge was eventually carried away by the floods of September 1915. Club President at this time was Canon Spence Ross.

These medals were later used as club prizes for the annual Points competition. Neil Wilson is recorded as winner in 1911 with 20 points and again in 1913 with 18 points on what was described as 'tricky ice'.

At the present time Avoch is one of the most prominent clubs in Ross-shire. Former President of the club, Arthur MacArthur, is presently Vice-President of the Province and the club is unique in having two lady curlers - Kathleen MacIver and Coreen Munro - as President and Vice-President respectively.

One of the most unusual trophies held by the club is a Silver Broom presented to J D Fletcher by the Avoch and Rosemarkie Curling Club in 1895. It was used for 'singles' competition, very uncommon in curling circles. Winners have included Joseph MacIntosh (1954), A Wallace (1955), R A Reid (1958), Bill Moodie (1969), Colin MacArthur (1980), Alex Mann (1972 and 1973), Rossie MacDonald (1970, 1971, 1974), Allan Maxwell Jnr (1979), Gordon Gill (1981) and Mike Wilson (1984). Alexander 'Dodo' Wilson was skip of a very successful Avoch rink in the 1970s which won the Allan Moore League and the Allangrange Quaich. Also prominent in this rink was Alex Young, the Aberdeen FC stalwart, famed for his devastating 'sliding' tackle.

At Avoch, and within the Curling Clubhouse there, on 14th October 1908, in the Annual General Meeting of the Avoch Curling Club.

Present - Messrs John Munro, presiding, James F Thomson, Kenneth Fraser, John Smith, Alistair Fraser, A Holm and A Junor.

The Treasurer submitted Statement of Accounts which showed a credit ballance (sic) of £4:10:7, which was considered very satisfactory.

The next business before the meeting was the resignation of Mr John Macleay as Secretary, which was accepted with very great regret.

The election of officebearers was next proceeded with and were all re-elected with the following alterations. Mr Junor was elected Secretary in room of Mr Macleay resigned, and Ex-Provost Geddies name was deleted from the list of Committee of Management.

Mr James F Thomson moved and the Chairman seconded and was unanimously agreed too (sic) that the grateful and sincere thanks of the members of the Avoch Curling Club be tendered to James Douglas Fletcher, Esq., of Rosehaugh, for his continued and helpful kindness to them as a Club, as evidenced not only in his granting them the free use of a pond, second to none in Ross-shire, but also in his freely helping them to keep the pond and its surroundings in thorough order, thereby adding materially to its usefulness.

The Secretary was instructed to send an excerpt of the Minute to Mr Fletcher.

Mr Thomson also moved and the Chair seconded and was agreed too (sic), that Mr John Macleay, late Secretary, be appointed an Honorary Member, and the Secretary was instructed to let him know of his appointment.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.
John Munro

At Avoch and within the Rosehaugh Hall on the 7th day of October 1915 the

Annual General Meeting of the Avoch Curling Club

was held.

Present - Canon Spence Ross, presiding, Messrs Donald McLeman, Alexr. Munro, John Smith, treasurer, and A Junor, secretary.

The Minutes of former Annual General Meeting was read and signed by the Chairman.

The Secretary read letter from the Rev. John McKenzie Gibson, the Club's Representative Member, stating that he was unable to attend the Royal Caledonian Curling Club Meeting at Ayr, but that he called on Mr Davidson Smith and that although the Avoch Club would not be represented, its name would be mentioned at said meeting.

The Treasurer intimated that he was unable meantime to give a financial statement.

The Secretary and Treasurer stated that they had visited the Curling Pond after the recent floods and reported that the bridge over the burn is now partially carried away, also that the pond outlet needs to be renewed. Canon Spence Ross was asked to see Mr Fletcher about a new bridge and Mr Smith to see Mr Down and Mr Gray as to the probable cost of a new outlet.

The list of officials and members regular and occasional was read over by the Chairman when all was (sic) re-elected as they stand with the exception of A McBean deleted and J McLean added to occasional.

A circular was read from the Royal Caledonian Curling Club soliciting a list of the Club's Roll of Honour, and the Secretary was instructed to forward the following - Major J M Cameron, Seaforth Highlanders, Fort George, pt Alistair Wilson Spence Ross, Rodesian (sic) Horse South Africa and pt Ronald Cedric Spence Ross, Victoria Rifles, Canadian Contingent.

A unanimous vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

Avoch Curling Club, 11th February 1952 at Amenities Pavilion.

A meeting was held with the object of forming a new Club, to be named the Avoch Curling Club, and to elect office bearers.

Those present were: Messrs A J Mann, Rev. J Lees, D Jack, I Mackay, K McLean, R Reid, A McIntyre, A Smith, J Thompson, W Mann, C McArthur, J McIntosh, W Grigor, F B Jack, Lachie, R. Parris, D McLean. The following joined the Club after the meeting: D McBean, W Jack, G. M. Jack, Alistair Parris, W McKenzie, K McKenzie, D Anderson.

Mr A J Mann was proposed as President by the Rev J Lees and seconded by Mr A McIntyre.
Vice President, Mr I McKay, by Mr R Reid, seconded by K McLean.
J Lees, Chaplain, by Mr A. J Mann seconded by Mr A Smith.
Secretary, Mr F B Jack, by Rev J Lees, seconded by Mr A McIntyre
Treasurer, Mr K McLean, Mr R Reid seconded by Mr D Jack.

It was proposed by Mr A J Mann and seconded by Mr A Smith that all those present should act as Committee for the good of the Club and was unanimously agreed to.

Annual Subscription of 10/- per annum and 5/- for Occasional members was proposed by Mr A Junor and seconded by Mr A Smith was unanimously agreed to.

A Basket Whist Drive was proposed by Mr A. J Mann and seconded by Mr K McLean to be held on Friday 28 February at the Public Hall. Mr Strachan was proposed by Mr A J Mann and seconded by Mr R Reid to be Card Master, Mr R Reid kindly providing the cards for the Whist Drive.

The Secretary was instructed by proposal of Mr A J Mann and seconded by A Smith to write to Mrs Fletcher, Rosehaugh House, and ask her if she would continue her position as Patroness of the new Club. It was noted from the old minute book that she held that position in the old club from October 1910 until October 1933, the secretary agreed to the proposal.

It was proposed by Mr A J Mann and seconded by Mr D McLean that the Annual General Meeting be held in October at the Pavilion. Rev J Lees proposed a vote of thanks to the President, which was heartily agreed to: the meeting then closed.

F B Jack
A J Mann

30th October 1952. The first Annual General Meeting was held within the Pavilion at 8 pm.

Mr A J Mann, President, was in the Chair; others present were Rev J Lees, A J Smith, A Wallace, D Jack, G. M. Jack, R Parris, A McIntyre, W G. McIntosh, J McIntosh, D McLean, R Strachan, J Rattray, K McKenzie, R Reid, J Thomson, K McLean, Treasurer, F B Jack, Hon Sec.

The secretary then gave a resume re the forming of the Club, then read the correspondence with the RCC Club intimating that we were affiliated to the old and ancient RCC Club. He then intimated that after correspondence with Mrs Fletcher, Rosehaugh, she consented to be Patroness of the new Avoch Curling Club, she had that position from 1929-1933 on the original Avoch Curling Club.

The treasurer then read the financial statement of the Club which I am pleased to say is in a very satisfactory condition.

Election of Officers as follows: Mr A. J Mann, President; Mr A Wallace, Vice President; Mr K McLean, Treasurer; A J Smith, Captain; F B Jack. Hon. Sec.; Rev J Lees, Chaplain.

Mr K McLean was deputed to call on Messrs Davidson, Inverness, re polishing of Curling Stone, he did so and was told they had given up doing so.

A Basket Whist Drive was proposed by the President, and seconded by Mr A McIntyre, to take place on Dec. 11th and advertised in the Ross-shire Journal. This was done and the Whist Drive held and was quite a success.

The President then announced that Mr Peter McIntyre, Findon, was presenting a Cup to the Club to be played for annually. The gift was very much appreciated by those present.

Mr A J Smith handed over to the Treasurer three medals for Curling events which he found among his Father's effects. Mr J Smith was the last President of the old Curling Club.

The annual subscription remained as before, viz 10/- member, 5/- per O.M.

A hearty vote of thanks was then accorded the President and the meeting closed.

A J Mann

BELMADUTHY

Instituted 1860 Admitted 1864



l-r: Rae Brill, Alan Stewart, H D Paul, Charles Fraser(date unknown)

1904

Patron - James F McKenzie of Allangrange

President - C M Cameron

Vice-Presidents -

Evan N Burton Mackenzie

Frank Grant

Representative Members -

C M Cameron

A Davidson Smith

Chaplain - Rev John Dow

Treasurer and Secretary - Francis Fraser

Committee or Council of Management -
Simon Mann, William Harvey, C M Cameron, John A Beaton,
Dr Brodie

Honorary Members -
Jas. R Mitchell, Andrew Mitchell, Alex. P Smith, Frank Grant

Ordinary Members (Regular) -
Francis Fraser, Robert Macrae, Jno. Macintyre, Charles Burness,
J A Beaton, William Harvey, Rev John Dow, S Mann, C M Cameron, Rod. Matheson, Alex. Beaton,
Dr Brodie, Robt. McLean, D Stuart, John Bisset, James Murdoch

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -
J F McKenzie, Murdo Macleod, Rod. Mackay, A Davidson Smith, Ang. Pescodd, R J. Gillanders,
Hugh Forbes, W McIntosh,
Alex. Munro, J Urquhart, John A Fowler, A McDonald, Robert Colvill, Hugh Matheson

2004

President - Calum MacRae

Representative Members - B MacIntyre, C MacRae

Secretary - Mrs B A MacIntyre

Treasurer - Brenda A MacIntyre

Match Secretary - Brenda A MacIntyre

Ice Rink - Inverness

Members (Junior under 18 years) -

I Chisholm, P Macintyre, Miss S Macintyre, N Watson

Members (Ordinary) -

I Fraser, Mrs L Fraser, P Fraser, M Hogg, Mrs B Macintyre,

Mrs D Maciver, A Maclellan, D Maclellan, G Maclellan, C Macrae, Mrs E Moodie, P Moodie,
M. Paul, Dr D Watson

The Belmaduthy Club was founded in 1860 and admitted to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1864. The first recorded minutes are of a meeting held in the Tore Inn on "Monday the 30th day of October 1871". Chairman of this meeting was George Ross. However, the President, as entered in the RCCC handbook of 1872, was D MacLeod, Coulmore, and Vice-President James Cameron, Balnakyle. The secretary at this time was Alexander P Smith of Munlochy Mains. James Douglas Fletcher, Rosehaugh, became patron in 1880. At that time the club had two curling ponds, one at Littleburn, just below the A832 junction, and the other at the Tore Inn.

In 1886 James F Mackenzie of Allangrange became patron; the President at that time was George MacLean.

Belmaduthy was not represented at the first meeting of the Ross-shire Curling Association on Wednesday 22 November 1893. However, a communication was read from the secretary (David Stuart) regretting his inability to be present but stating that the Belmaduthy club had agreed to conform to the findings of the meeting. At this time the club had 19 regular and 14 occasional members.

Belmaduthy was the first winner of the Association Trophy, presented by J D Fletcher, at a match played at Muir of Ord on 12 January 1895. There was a rather curious way of assessing the winner, by dividing the 'points up' by the number of rinks put forward by a particular club. This favoured those clubs who entered a small number of rinks, and the practice was discontinued.

The Rev John Dow is first mentioned as chaplain of the club at the AGM of 2 October 1893. He became President in 1927, a post he held until the outbreak of the Second World War. Harold Paul, Munloch Mains, was Secretary of the club from 1929 until 1938. James Cameron, Balnakyle, was President from 1937 until 1950.

The club celebrated its centenary in 1960. President on this auspicious occasion was Derek MacIver, Wester Strath.

There is little doubt that Belmaduthy has been the most successful club in Ross-shire curling circles in the past decade. Since 1982 they have won the Allan Moore 'A' league no less than nine times. They have also won the Allangrange Trophy eight times, the President's Cup six times, and the Dr John Anderson Bonspiel five times. They are truly the 'Rangers' of Ross-shire curling. They also have been excellent ambassadors of Ross-shire curling in all Area 10 and National competitions.

The nucleus of the team has been Peter, Iain and Brenda Fraser assisted at various times by Paul and Eleanor Moodie, David and Robert Lees, and Robert Urquhart. At present the second Belmaduthy rink of Mike and George Paul, Calum MacRae and Derek MacIver Jun. are on an equally devastating run and are on course to win the Allan Moore in our Centenary year.

Belmaduthy has contributed handsomely to Ross-shire Provincial curling - three Presidents, John Fraser, Peter Fraser and Mike Paul, and many first class players. Dare I say it, we all like to beat them - because they are the best.

And a 2007 postscript to the history of Belmaduthy Club



Photo: Sarah Macintyre with her parents Alistair and Brenda and displaying her Gold Medal along with the Women's World Junior Championship Cup.



Photo: Sarah Macintyre, a Ross junior curler and member of the Scottish Junior Curling Team, has helped her team mates secure the Women's World Junior Championship Cup and individual Gold Medals.

The tournament in Minnesota was the conclusion of a marvellous season for Sarah. Entering Strathclyde University in October 2006, she was invited to join the rink of Sarah Reid, a former

Scottish junior champion. Sarah, who is 18 years of age, has represented Great Britain in the World University Winter Games in Italy, and competed in international events in Europe.

The trip to the World Championship followed after achieving the Scottish junior title in February 2007, and success in the USA ended a 10-year wait for Scotland to regain the Women's Junior World Cup.

The Scottish team won the Gold Medal after a slow start to the week. After six rounds they had won only three games and were near the foot of the rankings. Following defeat by China in round eight, a place in the last four seemed unlikely, but in round nine China beat Norway, Russia lost to the USA, and Scotland, with a final round robin win over Italy, were in a tie-break position for fourth place with Norway and Switzerland.

Switzerland beat Norway and Scotland then beat Switzerland for a place in the semi-final. After a tremendous win over the USA in the semi-final, Scotland were into the final to face Canada.

In the final the Scots were down at the fifth after they lost a three in the fourth. Fighting back they took two in the tenth to peel the game. In the extra end the Scots guarded perfectly and Canada were only able to clear one shot at a time. Canada eventually cleared the Scots' shot by raising a guard. Skip Reid drew perfectly round to sit on the pot lid with her final stone. The Canadian skip drew for the hit but her stone stayed straight and took out her own shot. The Scottish team, and Sarah, were then able to celebrate their magnificent success.

CABERFEIDH



l-r: J D Wilson, Brahan; Willie George, Urquhart Farm; Jack Henderson, Dingwall; Rev John Sellar, Urquhart Manse.

1858

President - Keith Wm. Stewart MacKenzie of Seaforth

Patroness - Hon. Mrs Stewart MacKenzie of Seaforth

Representative Members - Frank Harper, Thos. Purdie

Treasurer and Secretary - Frank Harper

Committee or Council of Management -

Andrew Smith, David Fenton, John MacKenzie, W Moffat

Honorary Members -

Sir James J R MacKenzie, Bt., Colonel G W H Ross,

Sir William MacKenzie, Bt., Major Hirst

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

Hector Munro, E H McK. Matheson, John Gardner, James Yule,

Wm. Hossek, Pet. J Dewar, W R Thomson

1868

Patron - Seaforth

Patroness - Mrs Keith Stewart MacKenzie of Seaforth

President - Seaforth

Vice-President - Sir Kenneth S MacKenzie, Bart.

Representative Members - James Lewis, Andrew Smith

Chaplain - Rev Peter MacKenzie
Treasurer and Secretary - Frank Harper
Committee or Council of Management -
Seaforth, Andrew Smith, William Moffat, Sir K S MacKenzie, Bt.,
Captain Davidson, James Yule, David Ross, David Fenton, D G Ross
Honorary Members -
Sir W MacKenzie, Bart., Colonel Ross, Sir Jas. MacKenzie, Bart.
Ordinary Members (Regular) -
William Joass, Henry Sim, David Ross, Will. Chisholm, James Yule, Dr Robertson, W Johnstone,
W Laing, D G Ross, J Sutherland, Captain Cash, James Raiker, Donald Gunn, Capt. Davidson, Will.
Paterson, George Ross, Sir K MacKenzie, Bart., David Fenton, Provost Munro, Serg. Tulloch,
William Moffat, J G Ferguson, James Harper, Sheriff Hill, Andrew Smith, H McLennan, James
Brand, John Boyd

1881

Patron - Seaforth
Patroness - Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch

President - Sir Kenneth S MacKenzie, Bart.
Vice-President - Major Warrant
Representative Members - W A Peterkin, Frank Harper
Chaplain - Rev Peter MacKenzie, DD
Treasurer - Alex C MacKenzie
Secretary - Frank Harper
Committee or Council of Management -
David Fenton, Wm. Chisholm, Thomas Blake, A S Robertson, William Laing, James Hay, John
Mackay
Honorary Members -
Colonel Fraser, Colonel Davidson, James Yule
Ordinary Members (Regular) -
Sir K S MacKenzie, Bart., Wm. Laing, William Ross, A Macdonald, A C MacKenzie, Alex Sinclair,
John Mackay, Frank Harper, Capt. Cash, J Macdonald, W MacLennan, D Fenton, Maj. Warrant, A
S Robertson, James Hay, Wm. Chisholm, Maj. Mackenzie,
Peter A Yule, Thos. Blake
Ordinary Members (Occasional) -
And. Smith, Alex Dewar, W A Peterkin

1900

Patron - Seaforth
Patroness - Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch

President - Sir Kenneth J MacKenzie, Bart.
Vice-President - Colonel A R B Warrant
Representative Members - Sir Ken. J MacKenzie, W A Peterkin
Chaplain - Rev Roderick Mackenzie
Treasurer and Secretary - Alex MacDonald
Committee or Council of Management -
William McLennan, James Menzies, A Melville, Far. Macdonald, W Peterkin, A R Mackenzie
Honorary Members -

Major Stirling of Fairburn, Alex Dewar, Arthur Bignold
Extraordinary Members -
Lady Marjorie MacKenzie, Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie, Constance Warrand
Ordinary Members (Regular) -
Hugh Warrand, Hector McLean, John Peterkin, Seaforth, Chas. Stewart, Alex Melville William
Adam, J Nisbet, P B Macintyre, James Menzies, Wm. Peterkin, A Macintyre, Far. Macdonald, Col.
A R B Warrand, Ron. Mackenzie, Wm. McLennan, Alex. Macdonald, A R Mackenzie

1904

Patron - Seaforth
Patroness - Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch

President - Sir Kenneth J MacKenzie, Bart.
Vice-President - Colonel A R B Warrand
Representative Members - Sir Ken. J MacKenzie, W A Peterkin
Chaplain - Rev Roderick Mackenzie
Treasurer and Secretary - Alex MacDonald
Committee or Council of Management -
William McLennan, James Menzies, A Melville, R S Laing, W Peterkin, R Kelly, H McLean
Honorary Members - Major Stirling of Fairburn, Alex Dewar
Lady Members -
Lady Marjorie MacKenzie, Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie, Miss Constance Warrand, Mrs H M Warrand
Ordinary Members (Regular) -
Wm Ross, James Menzie, James Nisbet, A D Mackenzie, Wm McLennan, John Peterkin, A R B
Warrand, Alex Campbell, Alex Macdonald, William Adam, Seaforth, Robert Kelly, Hector McLean,
John Mackenzie, Hugh Warrand, S Laing, Alex Melville, Wm. Peterkin, A Macintyre, Sir K J
MacKenzie
Ordinary Members (Occasional) -
W A Peterkin, Alex Fowler, Don. Mackay, Andrew Fraser, G Warrand, Wm McLennan, Jas. B
Peterkin, J J Mitchell

1910

Patron - Seaforth
Patroness - Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch

President - Sir Kenneth J MacKenzie, Bart.
Vice-President - Colonel A R B Warrand
Representative Members - Sir Kenneth J MacKenzie, W Peterkin
Treasurer - John Mackenzie
Secretary - D Mackay
Committee or Council of Management -
William McLennan, W Peterkin, T McDonald, J Nisbet, A MacDonald, James Strachan
Honorary Members -
Major Stirling of Fairburn, Alex Dewar, Hector Mackenzie, yr. of Gairloch
Lady Members -
Lady Marjorie MacKenzie, Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie, Miss Constance Warrand, Mrs H M Warrand
Ordinary Members (Regular) -
Wm. McLennan, John Mackenzie, Seaforth, T Macdonald, Alex Macdonald, Wm. Peterkin, Sergt.
McKenzie, Dr W McLean, John Peterkin, James Nisbet, D McDonald, Don. Mackay

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

Wm. McLennan, Alex. Fowler, A W Hill, Col. A R B Warrand, A D Mackenzie, Jas. P Peterkin, H M Warrand, D G Warrand, Sir K J MacKenzie, A Melville, F G McKenzie

Extract from Ross-shire Journal of 9 January 1920:

"There was a great deal of curling on Loch Craig. On Tuesday the competition for the Lady Mackenzie Gold Medal, the Seaforth Silver Medal and the Caledonian Bronze Medal resulted: 1. John Mackenzie; 2. Sgt. Major Farquhar; 3. William Campbell. On Saturday, the annual competition for the Challenge Stones presented by Mr Peterkin, the Warrand Challenge Cup and two Medals, resulted: 1. John Mackenzie, Maryburgh; 2. T Macdonald, Croftcrunie; 3. D Mackay, Maryburgh ; 4. W Peterkin, Dunglass. A match between the Caberfeidh and Strathpeffer clubs resulted in a 47-26 win for the home club.

1915

Patron - Seaforth

Patroness - Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch

President - Sir Kenneth J MacKenzie, Bart.

Vice-President -Colonel A R B Warrand

Representative Members - Sir Kenneth J Mackenzie, W Peterkin

Chaplain - Rev A McInnes, BD

Treasurer - John Mackenzie

Secretary - D Mackay

Committee or Council of Management -

William McLennan, D McDonald, James Strachan, W Campbell, J W Peterkin, Sergt. Farquhar, W Peterkin

Honorary Members - Alex Dewar, Hector MacKenzie, yr. of Gairloch

Lady Members -

Lady Marjorie MacKenzie, Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie, Miss Constance Warrand, Mrs H M Warrand

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

Wm. McLennan, Wm. Peterkin, John Robertson, John Mackay, Wm. Campbell, D McDonald, Sergt. Farquhar, J McKenzie, John Peterkin, James Strachan, Don. Mackay, William Joass, John Mackenzie, Seaforth, Sir Kenneth MacKenzie, Colin Dingwall

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

Wm McLennan, John Ross, Dr W Maclean, Col A R B Warrand, H M Warrand, Alex Fowler, A W Hill, A Ross, John Mackenzie, D G Warrand, A Sinclair, Robt. Mackenzie, F G Mackenzie

1950s

Honorary Presidents -

Rev John Sellar, R J Y Stewart-MacKenzie, W A George, Sir John Stirling, KT

Presidents -

Commander Addington, W A Macdonald, Dr D J Macrae, Huisdean Matheson

Vice-Presidents -

W Macdonald, Dr D J Macrae, H Matheson, Dr Broadfoot

Bard - Ian Macleod

Chaplain - Rev J Sellar

Honorary Members - D Ross, R P Macfarlane

Members -

D Fraser, M Munro, S Burns, H Forsyth, C MacManus, J D Wilson, Jack Henderson, W A H Rowat, Dr Broadfoot, W A Macdonald, W J S Merchant, W J Henderson, D U Macmillan, Alistair George, W Forsyth, M Smith, A M Henderson, H J Matheson, K J Mackenzie, P B Macintyre, J Watson, D Forsyth, Commander Addington, Dr D J Macrae, A Bremner, D Fraser, M Munro, J D Martin, S MacAllister

Occasional Members -

J L Macfarlane, G MacCallum, R T W Anderson, M Matheson, A MacDonald, Angus Vickers, W Macdonald, R J Wilson, M Macleod, H Forbes, Captain Gilbertson, M Burns, J M Ross, I Houston, P G Brodie, B Mackenzie, T Ross, D Fraser, E Macrae, Brig. W A MacKenzie

1960

Representative Members - Huisdean Matheson, W A Macdonald

Secretary and Treasurer - W J Henderson

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

Rev J Sellar, W A George, J D Wilson, W A H Rowat, C MacManus, Dr D J Macrae, D U Macmillan, H I Matheson, I Macleod, D Forsyth, W Forsyth, W A Macdonald, A George, K J Mackenzie, W J S Merchant, A J Henderson, P B Macintyre, W J Henderson, S MacAllister, Dr Broadfoot, D MacCallum, M Smith, H Forsyth, F K Wiseman, J Watson, D Fraser, S Burns, A Bremner, M Munro

Ordinary Members (Occasional) - 16

1975

President - Ian Sutherland

Representative Members - I Sutherland, M J Burns

Secretary - C M MacManus

Treasurer - A Bremner

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

Rev J Sellar, A Bremner, J D Martin, I Sutherland, P B Macintyre, D G Macdonald, G MacCallum, M J Burns, Dr D J Macrae, E Munro, Dr G Bruce, A Ferguson, J Henderson, H I Matheson, Dr I Morrison, G Hogg, D Tolmie, I MacNab, I Miller, G Hyland, A Macdonald, D Elliot, K MacLennan, A Gair, A Christie, I Ross, F Morgan, Jennie MacDonald, D Campbell, J Grant, G Beck-Slinn, Betty Christie, H Barr, T Ross, A Brown, Joan Martin, D U Macmillan, C M MacManus, W McBain, Joan Tolmie

Ordinary Members (Occasional) - 16 (all ladies)

1980

President - A Christie

Representative Members - A Christie, M Mackenzie

Secretary - C M MacManus

Treasurer - A MacInnes

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

D Tolmie, G Hogg, D Boyd, G Hannah, A Christie, A Gair, M Mackenzie, B Tolmie, E Munro, I Tolmie, A Skinner, D Elliot, I Ross, A MacInnes, F Skinner, J King, Dr G Bruce, D MacDonald, H Forsyth, I Macdonald, Dr I Morrison, J MacDonald, R Fox, J Mackenzie, W McBain, D Bruce, W Dishington, K Watson, M J Burns, A Millar

Ordinary Members (Occasional) - 8

1987-88

Members -

David Bruce, Ian Morrison, Eric Munro, Angus Christie, Tom Ross, Alistair MacIntyre, Stuart Brown, Mike Burns, Grigor Hannah, Ewan Smith, Dave Boyd, Fraser Skinner, Irene Smith, Ian Tolmie, Marjory MacIntyre, Dan Nairn, Vera Nairn, Scott Bremner, Ian Grant, Ken Howie, Margaret Bruce, Angus MacInnes, Charlie Munro, Frank Nicol, Bill McBain, Gordon Bruce, Terry Goddard, Roy Fox, Alan Davidson, Harry Smith, Rhoda Gordon, Brian Tolmie, John Mackenzie, Marjory Stuart, Babs Ross, David Nicol, Stewart Christie, Paul Mitchell, Steven Sutherland, Erica Munro



Angus Christie in action at Loch Eye in 2001, although from the reflections on the ice it looks as though he will descend into the depths at any moment!

2004

President - Irene Smith

Representative Members - Irene Smith, Angus MacInnes

Secretary and Treasurer - Angus MacInnes

Match Secretary - William Shirran

Ice Rink - Inverness

Members -

Junior under 18 years - Miss S Macintyre

Ordinary Members -

J Brierly, A Christie, C Evans, Mrs G Evans, N Fawcett, R Fox, G Garscadden, D Gilchrist, Mrs L Gilchrist, Mrs N Greaves, Mrs E Hannan, G Hannan, J Loudon, A Macintyre, Mrs E Mack, M Mack, H Mackay, A Mackenzie, A Magson, Mrs M Magson, Dr A McCall, Mrs G McCall, A MacInnes, I Macintyre, N Macleod, Dr I Morrison, I Mowat, E Munro, Mrs S Munro, F Nicol, A Polson, A Rinning, J Roscrow, Mrs C Roscrow, Mrs L Shirran, W Shirran, Mrs I Smith, M Stewart

The Caberfeidh curling club was formed in 1855, joining the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1857. The club was in some respects 'the Ross-shire club' and had, at first, members from all over the County. However, in 1872, the Dingwall club was constituted and thereafter the majority of Caberfeidh members came from an area which stretched from Conon Bridge to Culbokie, along the northern section of the Black Isle.

Caberfeidh is at the present time the largest "male" club in the Province and has as its President Dr Iain Morrison, Blairtua. Culbokie.

Caberfeidh has always been an influential club in Provincial matters and it was a circular letter from Mr Yule, then secretary of the club, which set up the first meeting of the Ross-shire Curling Association at the National Hotel, Dingwall, on Wednesday 22 November 1893, at which Sir Kenneth S Mackenzie, Bart., also of Caberfeidh, presided.

The RCCC annual of 1903-04 records that the club patron was Seaforth and patroness Lady Mackenzie of Gairloch. It also records a small list of lady members, at that time very unusual. No other club with RCCC membership in the 1903-04 annual has a similar list. It seems that there has always been a latent fund of sexual equality in Ross & Cromarty. It is remarkable to speculate that, of the hundreds of other names which appear in the annual that year, these four Ross-shire ladies - Lady Marjorie Mackenzie, Mrs Stewart- Mackenzie, Mrs H M Warrand and Miss Constance Warrand - are alone in representing the fair sex. Need we say, times have changed.

There were also no less than five members that year with the name Beveridge, two having the initial 'J', discriminated by the suffix "sculp".

The Provincial President has often been a member of the Caberfeidh club. These have included in recent times J D Wilson (1957), P B Macintyre (1969), Angus Christie (1982) and our Centenary President, Eric Munro, who has ably carried through the programme of events in this centenary year.

A recent development in Ross-shire curling has been the introduction of a league competition for Senior (over 55) curlers. This innovation was largely the brainchild of the Caberfeidh President, Dr Morrison, and has proved extremely successful, with six mixed teams taking part regularly on Wednesday 5.30 ice at Inverness. In curling terms 'life begins at fifty-five'.

During its long history the Caberfeidh club has been extremely successful, none more than the rink of P B. Macintyre in the sixties and more recently that of Gregor Hannan. At the present time Caberfeidh have Alastair MacIntyre's rink challenging for supremacy of the Allan Moore 'A' league and also the very exciting youthful rink skippered by Charlie Munro, which has emerged from the lower stages of the Ross-shire leagues to make a strong attack on the more mature rinks as a team of the future. It is all good news for the future of Caberfeidh and Provincial curling.

Caberfeidh Curling Club and the Curling Suffragettes

Introduction

The Caberfeidh Curling Club was instituted in the winter of 1854-55 and had a Patroness, the Hon. Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie. Subsequent Patronesses of the club were Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch and Lady Mary Seaforth.

In 1900 the club had three "extraordinary members" - Lady Marjorie MacKenzie, Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie and Miss Constance Warrand. In the RCCC Annual for 1903-04 Caberfeidh is the only club to include lady members.

By 1910 there was a fourth lady member - Mrs H M Warrand - and the designation of "extraordinary" had disappeared!

In 1923 Lady Mary Seaforth was appointed Patron following the death of her husband (the original Patron of the club), Lord Seaforth. In 1933 Lady Seaforth died and thereafter the club did not have a Patron or Patroness.

The Suffragettes

In 1952 the first lady to throw a stone on Loch Craig is recorded in the minute book. The lady was Mrs Joan MacRae, a Canadian, and wife of Dr D J MacRae.

At the AGM in 1961 a discussion took place over the advisability or otherwise of admitting ladies to membership of the club. After consideration it was agreed not to admit ladies to full membership but there was no objection to them being invited to the pond for a game as guests.

At the AGM in 1965 Mr Angus MacDonald moved that the club be open for membership to ladies. It was pointed out by Mr Colin McManus that such a motion was incompetent under the agenda heading of General Business without notice, and it was agreed that the matter be left over to next year's AGM. Members indicated that there was no attempt at this stage to prevent the ladies coming down the rink.

At the AGM in 1966, on a motion of Mr Jim Martin seconded by Mr A MacDonald, it was decided, after a vote, that lady members be admitted to the club on payment of £2.00 per annum but that they should not be entitled to attend meetings or appear at courts.

Note: Indoor curling had arrived and ladies were much more involved.

At the AGM in 1969 it is noted that lady members were to be Associate Members and that the indoor committee were to consider their position in detail.

At the AGM in 1970 it was decided that all lady curlers who had curled last year could receive Full or Occasional membership on application (fee 5/-).

At the AGM in 1972 it was agreed that lady members of the club in future be known as Associate Members and that their annual sub be fixed at 50p. Note: The reversal to "associate" membership was most likely to avoid payment of the RCCC levy.

At the AGM in 1974 it is noted that, after a great deal of argument, several motions and counter-motions, it was agreed that ladies be admitted as full playing members of the club but should not have voting rights or be permitted to attend Curlers' Courts. The annual sub for such ladies to be £1.00.

At the AGM in 1974 the subs continued as: Men £2.00 and Ladies £1.00.

At the AGM in 1975 the president (Grigor Hannan) expressed the view that the lady members, who were of great help to the club, should be encouraged to attend the AGM. It was pointed out that, as far as could be seen, there was nothing to stop lady members from attending if they so wished, but there had always been a tradition that the AGM was for men only. On a vote being taken, a motion by Eric Munro, seconded by David Boyd, that consideration of the question of ladies attending the AGM be deferred until the 1986 meeting was carried by a majority of 4 to 3.

At the AGM in 1976 - no discussion on ladies attending the AGM ! At the AGM in 1977 - no discussion on ladies attending the AGM !

At the AGM in 1988 - ladies attend the AGM. The ladies were - Rhoda Gordon, Irene Smith, Babs Ross, Marjory MacIntyre, Marjory Stuart. At the end of the minutes for 1988 there is noted that David Boyd had the affrontery to announce that instead of paying attention to the meeting he had been composing a poem to commemorate the first presence of ladies at a Caberfeidh AGM! The poem was then read.

At the AGM in 1992 the first lady office bearer was elected - Flora Buthley as Treasurer. At the AGM in 2001 Irene Smith was elected Vice-President and Susan Munro as Secretary/Treasurer. At the AGM in 2003 Irene Smith was elected President, Susan Munro elected Secretary/Treasurer and Erica Mack to skip her rink in 'A' League.

Regular members of the club are: Gayle Evans, Laura Gilchrist, Nan Greave, Ellis Hannan, Gay McCall, Christine Roscrow, Lorna Shirran. Of these ladies seven are "made" curlers.

What a difference 150 years can make!!

Did the European Commission realise the effect of Equal Opportunity on the Caberfeidh Curling Club?

HUISDEAN MATHESON

He was instrumental in the establishment of the outdoor rink at Riverbank, Conon Bridge, taking responsibility for all aspects of planning permission and the control of contractors.

At the AGM in 1959 it is minuted: "The Rev John Sellar moved a very warm vote of thanks to Huisdean for the way he had conducted the affairs of the club during his term of office and especially for the considerable trouble he had gone to in getting the pond under way. Huisden is a practical man and the Club was more than fortunate in having his services put at the disposal of members in this respect."



Figure 1: Huisdean Matheson joined Caberfeidh Curling Club in 1938 and was President in 1958-59.

He is the oldest surviving member of Caberfeidh and enjoys an active retired life living at his home in Rosshill Drive, Maryburgh. A telegram from the Queen is due in 2007 !

Postscript: It is pleasing to note that Huisdean celebrated his 100th birthday on 2 April 2007. He went on to achieve the age of 104.

CURLING MEMORIES

The other day I had a visit from Angus Christie bringing with him a bundle of literature etc pertaining to Caberfeidh Curling Club for my perusal, these including a portfolio of the minutes of meetings of Caberfeidh Curling Club dating back to 1915. Browsing through these brought back memories of my early days as a member of the Caberfeidh Club.

In these days Jack Frost visited us for several weeks during the winter months and provided us with many enjoyable hours of outside curling. At that time most villages and townships had flourishing curling ponds and clubs, which enabled us to have many pleasant inter-club games with neighbouring clubs when the local ladies served us lovely hot soup and sandwiches and the men had their drams which they alleged were necessary to counteract the freezing cold!

The Caberfeidh curling pond was situated in the Maryburgh wood and was fed by a small stream; it has now disappeared under the housing development of Birch Drive. The curling was totally different from the present-day type of sliding, curling with brushing being such a large part of the game and with the main object being to clear all stones out of the house. The old game was played from crampets which were metal plates with "teeth" that penetrated into the ice, and the stones were propelled from standing or crouching positions, with the object being to build up a house, not to empty it.

Nowadays Jack Frost seldom provides suitable ice for outside curling in the lower parts of Easter Ross. Global warming may have something to do with this

Huisdean Matheson
July 2000

LOCH CRAIG

Curling would probably have commenced on Loch Craig around 1850. The Caberfeidh Curling Club was formed in 1855.

Like the majority of curling clubs in Easter Ross the club was associated with an estate. Loch Craig was located on Brahan Estate, close to the East Lodge and to the village of Maryburgh.

Membership of the club transcended the social classes from nobility to professionals to artisans and estate workers. The first Patron of the Club was Lord Seaforth.

Initial curling was on the loch but at some time prior to 1914 an artificial pond was constructed alongside Loch Craig.

Unfortunately, the Club's records for the period 1855 to 1917 no longer exist. The Club is very fortunate to have preserved the Minute Books from 1919 to date.

Visits of Jack Frost to Loch Craig

1918-19 - in residence Christmas to March

1921-22 - a 10-day visit

1923-24 - a 5-day visit

1925-26 - 18 days

1926-27 - 10 days

1929-30 - 15 days

1931-32 - 7 days (all in March)

1933-34 - 14 days

1946-47 - 4 days

1951-52 - 24 days continuous

Loch Craig 1921

The meeting instructed the Secretary to write Lord Seaforth thanking him for his consideration in the interests of the Club in relation to Loch Craig and the facilities granted them for playing thereon. The following is a copy of letter sent -

Lord Seaforth
Brahan Castle
Conon Bridge

Caberfeidh Curling Club

My Lord,

In a meeting of the above club, held within the Conon Hotel on the 6th October 1921, the secretary was instructed by the meeting to write Lord Seaforth, their Patron, thanking him for his consideration in the interests of the Club in relation to Loch Craig, and the facilities granted them for playing thereon.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,
Your Lordship's obedient and humble servant
Alexander Farquhar, Secretary.

The chairman having generously provided a liberal supply of various cordials etc., the meeting was declared closed.

Loch Craig 1926

The secretary intimated that during the summer the Club House from Ferintosh was brought to Maryburgh and re-erected on the East side of the Pond. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the following gentlemen who so kindly gave their services in the removal and re-erection, viz.

Messrs W Peterkin, John MacKenzie (Maryburgh), W George (Sen.), W George (Jun.),
W Ross, A Farquhar.

An inventory of the existing Club House is detailed as: one oil stove, 3 tea pots, 3 kettles, 2 waste bins, 2 doz. cups, one enamel basin, one oil can.

Loch Craig 1930 - Extract from Minutes

Report on Fire:

The Secretary, Alex Farquhar, reported that on the night of 25 April, at about 10.30 pm, it was reported to him by Mr Alex Ross, Ploughman, Somerby, that one of the huts was on fire. "Being in bed at the time, I arose and proceeded with all haste, and found the hut, now destroyed, in a complete mass of flame, it being utterly impossible to save anything as the flames were shooting past the door, the fire having apparently started at the north-east end, and it would appear from the inside, as there was then a hole burned through the roof at that end. Although the whole of the structure was then standing, by 12 midnight it was completely burned to the ground." Twenty-seven pairs of curling stones, some very valuable ones, were destroyed along with all the curling equipment. The Clubhouse was not insured.

Committee: It was proposed by Capt. M Tindal, and seconded by Mr William George, that a small committee be appointed to go into the question of the ways and means of replacing the destroyed hut. The following committee was formed: the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Mr Thos. Middleton of Corntown, Mr Alex Matheson of Teanahinch, Mr J Mackenzie, Maryburgh.

It was finally agreed that another 12ft 6ins x 8ft 6ins be added to the one known as the Ferintosh hut, making it 25ft x 8ft 6ins, that the S.E. gable be taken out, and fitted into the new end, and the estimates be asked for from the following: Mr Hugh Maclean, Moy; Messrs Grant & Sons, Dingwall; Mr G Gordon, Dingwall.

Circulars: It was proposed by Mr William Ross, and seconded by Mr A Farquhar, that, when the cost of erection became known, all associated with the Caberfeidh Curling Club be circularised as to what they would be willing to give to defray the expenses, but that no-one outside the club be asked, unless they voluntarily gave. Carried.

Vote of Thanks: Mr W H McFarlane moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the very efficient and able manner in which he carried out the duties of chairman. The Secretary was thanked for the very prompt manner in which he called the meeting. There being no further business the meeting was brought to a close.

Loch Craig - 25 July 1930

At Maryburgh and within the club house there on the 25th day of July 1930, in a special meeting of the Caberfeidh Curling Club.

Present: Messrs William Peterkin, William George, William A George, David Clark, Capt. Tindal, Thos. Middleton, Alex Matheson, Jno. Mackenzie, Alex Ross and Alex Farquhar.

Mr William Peterkin, President, presiding.

The President called upon Capt. M Tindal, RN, Kinnairdie, to declare the newly reconstructed club house open, which he did in a jolly, breezy way, stating that he was pleased to say that everything had now been paid, and the club had now everything ready awaiting "John Frost". The members had all provided themselves with curling stones and were, he said, very grateful to the following for their very generous help financially in the work of reconstruction, viz. Lady Seaforth, Mr F G Mackenzie, Balavil, and Mr William Peterkin, Dunglass.

He also expressed that he was pleased to see one of the oldest clubs north of Perth once again able and fit to take its place in the great "Roarin' Game". The Club had been instituted as far back as the year 1855.

The President returned a very heart vote of thanks to Capt. Tindal and also expressed the club's gratitude to all who had helped in whatever way.

Mr David Clark, Maryburgh, thanked Mr Peterkin for the able manner in which he carried out the duties of the Chair, and for all the trouble to which he had put himself in helping members to procure curling stones etc and for his many other efforts to keep the club together and in a flourishing condition.

Afterwards a sale of lockers took place, and soon all were sold.

The President, in his usual generous way, provided a liberal supply of refreshments; his health was duly pledged and a happy gathering was brought to a close.

William Peterkin
Presiden

Loch Craig 1939 to 1959

1939 - Purchase of two only 500 candle power Tilley suspension lamps.

1939-1944 - No curling during World War 2.

1945 - Club house and Pond all reinstated.

1951 - Electric lighting installed at a cost of £100.

1956 - There was a proposal to construct an artificial pond at Loch Craig using rubble arising from the demolition of the Prisoner of War Camp at Brahan. Note: 1956 was the year that Muir of Ord's new pond was opened.

1958 - Quotation to fill in Pond and create artificial Rink considered at £600.

1959 - Estimates obtained from Baxters and Tawse to construct rink at Riverbank, Conon. Feu for ground - Mr Burns, who had gone to considerable trouble on this matter, said it was understood we pay Mr MacFarlane the legal expenses in connection with the Feu Charter and a nominal fee for the feu. Huisdean Matheson submitted plans.

Meeting on 7 May 1959 - Consideration given to three possible sites: Old Pond at Loch Craig; Old Tennis Courts at Conon; Riverbank, Conon. Decision made to progress Riverbank.

LOOKING BACK IN 2005

In February 2005 Caberfeidh Curling Club celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary. Caberfeidh, instituted in 1855 and admitted to the RCCC in 1857, is the oldest club in the Ross and Cromarty Province which Caberfeidh was instrumental in establishing in 1893 and, like most curling clubs in this Province, was in its early days associated with an Estate.

Curling probably began about 1850 on Loch Craig on the Brahan Estate, the loch being situated near the East Lodge and the village of Maryburgh. The Brahan estate is closely linked with the Brahan Seer, one of Scotland's best known seers, whose prophesies among many others foretold the fate of the family who were the early patrons of the club.

Membership of the club transcended the social classes from nobility to professionals to artisans and estate workers with the first patron of the club being Lord Seaforth, who was chieftain of the Clan MacKenzie of the Lands of Kintail.

The crest of the Clan is the Stag's Head or, in Gaelic, "Caberfeidh", from which the club's name is derived, and the stag's head has featured in club badges from early days.

The last Seaforth Patron was James Alexander Francis Humberston MacKenzie, who was Caberfeidh from 1855 to 1923, and in 1903-04 the RCCC Annual records that the club had a list of four lady members - very unusual for that time. From the hundreds of names in the Annual that year, these four ladies were in all probability non-playing members, as it is also recorded in the minute book that on 26 January 1952 the first lady to throw a stone for the Club was a Mrs Joan MacRae, Canadian-born, some 100 years after the club was formed. Today, celebrating our 150th Anniversary, we have in Caberfeidh our first Lady President. How times have changed!

The club records from 1855 to 1917 have been lost but, thankfully, the minute books from then on have been preserved and make very interesting reading. The minutes record that in the winter of 1918-19 there was frost from Christmas to March, but in 1920-21 there were just 15 days of frost. That winter, in the challenge match held on 18 December 1920 between the married members of the club and the single members, the losers had to pay for a boll of oatmeal for each poor person in the local village of Maryburgh.

In 1926 a dedicated curling rink was built next to Loch Craig and on that rink in 1929 Wm. MacFarlane, in the Points competition, scored 34 points, a Scottish record for outdoor ice and a score not very often beaten indoors.

An early benefactor of the club was Wm. Peterkin who, in 1904, donated a pair of magnificent curling stones to the club and again, in 1929, donated £13.10. 0 to be set aside for the purchase of a curling broom each year for competition. This gift, invested in Consolidated Stock, now earns the grand sum of 22 pence a year.

Curlers of yesteryear, like today, are renowned for their comradeship and humour and the minutes record instances of this. In 1949-50 the minute records that the hotel could produce only one bottle of whisky, the consequences of state management control (most hotels in eastern Ross and Cromarty were state owned to minimise alcohol consumption around the naval base of Invergordon). At that AGM, just before songs and stories started, a message was handed to the Rev John Sellar to say his wife was waiting for him. Without more ado the padre rose from the meeting and asked to be excused. This was a most unheard of occurrence in the annals of Caberfeidh Curling Club and the secretary (Jack Henderson) was instructed to minute the fact that the Caberfeidh curlers had come

to a sorry pass when one of their most prominent members was being ruled by petticoat government. It was hoped that such an occurrence would never happen again. The meeting concluded early due to the fact that the bottle was empty.

The following year the story continued: There was strong objection raised by the Rev John Sellar with regard to the minutes and stated it was a foul calumny that he was ruled by "petticoat government" and demanded an apology from the secretary. If it was not forthcoming the said secretary was to be prohibited from the club for all time, and the padre drew attention to the fact that the culprit in this case was the Vice-President, J D Wilson, for whom not only his wife but a whole bus load of ladies were waiting outside the hotel to take him home. J D Wilson, in a very meek and mild voice, confirmed this. He seemed overwhelmed with shame.

The following year, 1951-52, the Secretary was commended on his minutes by the Rev John Sellar, but when the Secretary submitted the club cash book showing that cash in hand was one penny, the Rev. demanded that the Secretary produce this penny. The Secretary was dismayed that a thorough search in the box failed to produce the said penny and he had to recourse by putting his hand in his pocket amid cries of "Shame!"

In those early days the club owned a club house at Loch Craig but this was destroyed by fire on 25 April 1930 with the loss of 27 pairs of stones. However, the club rallied and a new facility opened on 20 July 1930, and in 1939 two 500 candle power tilley suspension lamps were purchased for evening curling. The club continued at this site until 1960 when a new concrete outdoor rink was constructed near the River Conon. This two sheet rink is still owned by the club but has not been played on for over 20 years as club curling now takes place at Inverness Ice Centre.

TOP TABLE



FRONT ROW

Wilma Nicol, Lorna Shirran, Irene Smith, Dot Campbell, Betty Christie

BACK ROW

Frank Nicol, Bill Struan, Ian Morrison, Colin Campbell, Angus Christie

The club's sesquicentennial celebrations under the stewardship of President Irene Smith have included a Court, a spectacular Anniversary Dinner Dance and an Anniversary Bonspiel (Caberfeidh versus the rest of the World) held at Inverness.

150 Years of the Caberfeidh Curling Club by Colin 'McGonagle' Campbell

It was in the splendid year of 1855,
a time when it was most excellent to be alive,
For in that year the Caberfeidh Curling Club was born,
the very first curling club in the Highlands to be formed,
which made the rest of them quite forlorn.

Caberfeidh was admitted to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1857,
which for a curling club is the equivalent of being in heaven.
From 1859 to 1889 all went well with the club, all was fine.
Then, due to the early onset of global warming,
on poor Loch Craig no ice was forming.
The members became depressed; they thought all was lost.
For years they assumed the position recumbent
and contemplated their idle stones, now sadly redundant.

But this global warming had been foretold by a little-known seer.
(He was a cousin of the famous one; this was the all-Bran seer.)
He could only tell the future whilst locked in the loo,
giving off more hot air than four Highland coos.
The all-Bran seer also predicted there would be a lot more greenhouse gasses
when his all-Bran diet spread to the masses.

The seer's spell was lifted in 1894
when an encouraging report came in from Tore -
Four brass monkeys had been rushed to Raigmore.

The all-Bran seer also predicted that Ladies would one day join Caberfeidh,
and they would rule the club and have their say.
This caused the members great turmoil, anguish and dismay.
And, at one AGM, when the subject was gingerly mooted,
It was so badly received, that the motion was firmly booted.
In fact the proposal was so controversial and caused such a terrible stooshy
that the proposer was asked to go and jump in Loch Ussie.

In 1910 the traditional heather besom
was replaced by the new horse-haired turbo broom,
which made the stones sound different.
Instead of roaring they went 'Vroom'

From 1918 to 1931 Jack Frost returned to Loch Craig;
halcien days when the favourite whisky was Haig.
In 1938 the club bought two 500 candle-power tilley suspension lamps,
but they couldn't get them lit 'cause the wicks were damp.
Floodlit curling had come to Caberfeidh,
and as one member said,
"It's better in the dark than it was through the day."

In the 1950s, I see that the minutes
are full of acrimonious quotes like 'I think you should bin it'.
And one member, who hadn't got a tie,
wasn't banned because he had two bottles of the Isle of Skye.

1955 was another good year to be alive.
Caberfeidh Curling Club was a hundred years old,
and a lavish centenary dinner was to unfold
at the state-controlled Dingwall's National Hotel
where the licensing laws were as strict as the all-Bran seer did foretell.
No-one dared ask for more whisky
(This was long before the days of Angus Christie.)
But this was resolved when someone recognised the manager,
who came from Poolewe,
and he decreed that it would be no more than a bottle between two.

At the AGM in 1965
it again was not a good year for lady curlers to be alive.
Another motion to allow them in if they went Dutch
was again firmly booted into touch.

But in 1966 indoor curling had arrived
and the motion to bring in ladies had survived.
And in 1975 the President expressed a view that lady members should attend the AGM,
but it was pointed out that this was traditionally strictly for men.

In 1992, between me and you the first lady office-bearer was elected, leaving the opposition firmly
rejected.
And in 2003 came the first Lady President, at curling she is no novice,
and she brought charm and grace to this high office.

And so, Ladies and Gentlemen, let's look forward this day.
Be upstanding, raise your glasses, for the toast is '150 years of Caberfeidh'.

CHANONRY

1904

Patron - Sir R B Finlay, KC, MP

Patroness - Miss Mackenzie of Flowerburn

President - Colonel Hall

Vice-Presidents -

R J Gillanders, Provost Sutherland

Representative Members -

Rev John M Gibson, MA, Dr Maclean

Chaplain - Rev W Green

Treasurer - J M Stuart

Secretary - W S Grant

Committee or Council of Management -

Provost Sutherland, Rod. McLennan, W S Grant, Dr Maclean, J Hossack, J A Gordon, John Down, R J Gillanders

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

T G Matheson, J A Gordon, Jas. Robertson, R J Gillanders, J Munro, W W Gillanders, J Down, W S Grant, J McDonald, Dr Maclean, J Hossack, W Cameron, Provost Sutherland, Rod. McLennan, W George, Geo. Down

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

Jas. D Fletcher, J Henderson, Thos. Henderson, Rev J M Gibson, Neil Wilson, J M Fraser, Colonel Hall, J M Stuart, H M Munro

CROMARTY

1904

Patron - Col. W C Ross.CB

President - G A St. Quintin

Vice-President - J Middleton

Representative Members - J Middleton, J W Lumsden

Chaplain -Rev W Scott

Treasurer - J F Thomson

Secretary - J W Lumsden

Committee or Council of Management -

R Crearer, D Junor, J Ross, J W Lumsden, J Middleton

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

J Middleton, J F Thomson, A Scott, H Macleod, D Junor, J W Lumsden, J Allan, T G Middleton, W

Johnston, Rev W Scott, J E Scott, F Middleton, J Ross, R Crearer, J Cooper, R Ritson

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

S Spence, M Mackenzie, G Macgregor, J Strachan, G A St Quintin, R Orr Paterson, P Hay, J

Anderson, Col W C Ross, CB, M Macdonald

DINGWALL



Curling Rink, Bridgend, Dingwall. Date thought to be 1910.

Another view of the curling pond at Bridgend, Dingwall, taken on the same date.

The original Dingwall Curling Club was instituted at a meeting held in the Caledonian Hotel on Saturday 18 November, 1871. Chairman for the evening was Tulloch, who indicated that he could provide a site for an outdoor pond.

The club joined the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1872. The secretary at that time was William Mackenzie, Procurator Fiscal.

The provision of an outdoor pond bedevilled the club throughout its entire history and, indeed, appears to have been a major element in the club's eventual demise.

A receipt, dated 1909, for one hundred and forty-six pounds, eleven shillings and twopence, annotates payments to various Dingwall tradesmen, including John Fraser, contractor; specifically twelve and threepence to Wordie & Co for haulage; and fifteen shillings to the Dingwall Gasworks for tar - all for the construction of a curling pond at Bridgend. This pond was further improved in the thirties but the costs seem to have involved the club in long-term debts, which were not cleared until 1938. At this point, membership had fallen to such an extent it was agreed to wind up the club.

Dingwall curling was always involved closely with the Strathpeffer club. An extant document shows that the Dingwall club was granted use of four rinks at Elsick in 1927. But, of much greater interest, the two clubs met in competition for the Wallace Challenge Kettle twice a year. The original letter, containing the challenge and the rules governing the competition, was issued by A Wallace from the Strathpeffer Spa Hotel on the 28 September 1905. Is it possible that the challenge can be revived?

Clubs in these times also issued membership cards, listing teams and skips. Dingwall names included in that for 1909-10 were D M Watt (grandfather of the present editor of the Ross-shire Journal), Wylie Hill (President), T S H Burns, J C Robertson and W J Duncan - all 'well kent names' even today.

Extract from Ross-shire Journal of 9 January 1920:

"Curlers have had excellent ice at Dingwall over three days, first on the artificial pond and by Saturday on natural ice at Bridgend. Rinks skipped by Mr W Ross, Bridgend, ex-Provost Henderson, Captain A M Macintyre and Mr James Cumming were successful over the three days."

The Dingwall club was pre-eminently involved in the birth of the fledgling Province on 22 November 1893, as it was their secretary, P A Yule, who issued the original letter inviting all Ross-shire clubs to set up 'a Curling Association'. It is therefore appropriate to end these historical notes by welcoming the renaissance of the Dingwall club, initially as the Highland River Purification Board but now known, once again, as Dingwall Curling Club. Club members include Andy Rosie (also Province Match Secretary), Stewart Christie, Roger Courts and Isobel Meldrum.

The revitalised club has proved a successful combination. Since 1981 it has won virtually all the Provincial trophies at one time or another, including the Allan Moore League. Outwith the Province, they have also won the Inverness Super League 1987-88 and have represented the Province in many Area 10 and even International competitions.

On this upbeat note for Ross-shire curling, can I say once again that intending curlers are welcome in all of the Provincial clubs. Join us next season.

DORNOCH

Instituted 1880 Readmitted 1967

1904

Patrons -

His Grace The Duke and Earl of Sutherland, Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of Skibo
C D Barrow, Esq. of Northfield

Patronesses -

Her Grace The Duchess of Sutherland, Mrs Carnegie of Skibo, Mrs Barrow, Northfield,
Mrs Hamilton Bruce, The Grange

President - W L Hacon

Vice-President - David Peters

Representative Members - Provost Sutherland, James Inglis

Chaplain - Rev D Grant, DD

Treasurer and Secretary - John McCrone

Committee or Council of Management -

W G Moore, M Macdonald, John Sutherland, Hector Murray, R R Johnstone, J Hay Arthur, R
McKay, D Campbell, A S Weir

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

James Inglis, Fred. Nicolson, W G Moore, G R Kennedy, Rev D Grant, R L Neill, Robert McKay, R
R Johnstone, Wm Munro, Dr MacLachlan, W Fraser, A S Weir, J Sutherland, W S Fraser, Provost W
Sutherland, T D Currie, Hugh Munro, J Hay Arthur, John McCrone, Hector Murray, David Peters,
H M Mackay, James F Hardie, Alex Murray, M Macdonald, W. L Hacon, R McRae, Chas. Gillespie,
C H Urquhart, D Campbell, D Fergusson, John Barclay, Andrew Innes, D F McLeod, Alex Moore,
John Bell, John Grant, A Campbell, A F MacLennan, J Mackintosh, George Grant, Sgt. Robertson,
Neil Murray

Newspaper report of 7 February 1907:

The second annual bonspiel for the County Cup and Medal took place on the pond of the Dornoch Curling Club, at Lochintreel, on Friday last, when no less than fourteen rinks took part, as follows: 4 from Dornoch, 3 from Golspie, 2 from Brora, 2 from Lairg, and 3 from Bonar.

The ice was not in good order, and had considerable bias which made play further difficult and uncertain. Frost was keen throughout the previous night, but thaw set in before play was commenced, which made the ice smuggy.

During the day a number of visitors were on the ice, and took keen interest in the play. Mr Inglis, Achley, a veteran curler, attended as referee and umpire, and at the end had one or two knotty points to dispose of, which he did to the satisfaction of all parties.

Mrs Campbell, of the Cafe, Dornoch, attended to the creature comforts of the players in the accustomed fashion by providing a sumptuous repast of the never-failing Irish stew.

1980

President - J McKinlay

Representative Members - J McKinlay, A W Mackenzie

Secretary and Treasurer - Vacant

Total Membership - 20

The Club was formed in 1880 and has functioned almost continuously since then.

Bonspiels took place on Loch-an-Treel, just outside the town, until a four-lane outdoor rink was constructed in 1913. The Club had borrowed a considerable sum to construct the rink and, due to the First World War, this was not repaid fully until the mid 1920s. The rink fell into disrepair in the 1970s but the Club is planning to re-surface it within the next year.

When the Ice Rink in Inverness opened in 1965 the Dornoch Club joined the Ross Province and has enjoyed many years of good crack. When the Ice Rink opened in Brora in 1985 the Sutherland Province was formed and Dornoch's place in the Ross Province appeared to be at an end. To the delight of the Dornoch players the Caberfeidh club invited the Dornoch club to continue playing in the Ross Province under the Caberfeidh banner.

This link between the two Provinces has proved to be fruitful and the opening of the Dornoch Bridge has increased the opportunities for the two Provinces to meet in friendly competition both in Inverness and in Brora.

EASTER ROSS AND ST. DUTHUS

Instituted 1853 Admitted 1861

1861-62

President - Sir Charles Ross, Bart.

Vice-President - W H Murray of Geanies

Representative Members - Dr Ellison, A M Clark

Chaplain - Rev Wm. Macpherson

Treasurer and Secretary - A M Clark

Committee or Council of Management -

John Forsyth, James Clarke, Thomas Hall, A F Gardiner, A Ellison, Dr Ellison

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

W H Murray, A M Clarke, James M Teas, H Macdonald, Dr Ellison, J Williamson, W McPherson, James Taylor, John Forsyth, James Clarke, A Mackenzie, Henry Sim, A Ellison, Dr Vass, D Fraser, A McLean, Geo. Middleton, Dr Cook, Thomas Hall, John Wright, Alex. Wallace, Charles Gordon, A F Gardiner, Hugh Shannon, Donald Ross, Robert Murray, K Murray

1904

Patrons -

Count de Serra Largo of Tarlogie, Capt. G G Clarke, Kirksheaf, J Shaw MacLaren of Ardlarach

Patronesses -

The Countess de Serra Largo, Mrs Clarke, Kirksheaf, Mrs Shaw MacLaren

President - Roderick Finlayson

Vice-President - Provost Donald Fowler

Representative Members - R T Stewart, Alex MacBean

Chaplain - Rev R Hutchinson

Treasurer and Secretary - Donald McLeod

Committee or Council of Management -

John Mackenzie, Rev R Hutchinson, James Stephen, Donald Fowler, W J Munro, W Urquhart

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

W J Macdonald, Sidney Jennins, Rev R Hutchinson, R T Stewart, W Ross, R Mackenzie, John Mackenzie, Donald Ross, W Urquhart, Thos. Grierson, James Stephen, H M Fraser, A MacBean, Hugh Mackenzie, W T McTavish, R Finlayson, Don. Fowler, Don. McLeod

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

John Munro, Duncan MacPherson, R K Dawson, J R Strachan, Alex Munro, John Gunn, Geo. McLean, John Gallie, J Shaw McLaren, W J Munro, Donald Ross 2, Chas. McKenzie, W W Mackay, G M Munro

1923-24

President - Provost Maitland

Representative Members - E W Fox, D McLeod

Treasurer and Secretary - Donald McLeod

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

Hugh Mackenzie, W Ross, M Mackay, J R Strachan, Don. McLeod, W J Munro, T Wooley, E W Fox, Don. Mackenzie

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

Sergt. Allan, Hugh Ross, Chas. McKenzie, Rev A Cameron, Donald Ross, G G McIntosh, A McBean, D Sinclair, T H Pruden, D F Mackenzie

EDDERTON

1904

Patrons -

Alex. Littlejohn, Esq., of Invercharron, John A Brooke, Esq., of Mid Fearn

Patronesses -

Mrs Littlejohn of Invercharron, Mrs Brooke of Mid Fearn

President - D Cameron, Esq., Balblair

Vice-President - D Aird, Esq

Representative Members - J Strathern, D R Cran

Chaplain - Rev D Macrae, BD

Treasurer and Secretary - Kenneth M Cameron

Committee or Council of Management - all Ordinary Members

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

D Aird, D Cameron, D R Cran, J Strathern, J A Brooke, K M Cameron, D Ross, A Paterson

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

J Cran, W Fraser, W Munro, Miss Cran, A Fairweather, J Mackay, Miss Cameron

FAIRBURN

Instituted 1885 Admitted 1888



BOB BURNS - FAIRBURN CURLING RINK

Bob Burns - Fairburn Curling Rink



FAIRBURN CURLING CLUB - ORRIN CURLING POND

Fairburn Curling Club - Orrin Curling Pond

1904

Patron - John Stirling of Fairburn

Patroness - Mrs Stirling

President - William Stirling

Vice-President - Colonel G MacLennan

Representative Members -

Sir H Munro, Bart., R Macrae

Chaplain - Rev J A McFarlane

Treasurer and Secretary - J Burns

Committee or Council of Management -

Joseph Chalmers, Joseph Jackson, John Burns, James Chisholm

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

John Stirling, Wm. Stirling, J Chisholm, M Mackenzie, J Chalmers, John Burns, J Jackson, Capt. A

Stirling, M Mackintosh, Col. G MacLennan, A Mackay, H Grant, James Stirling, J Vacher, G

Simpson, A Reid

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

William Gunn, W Parker, Sir H Munro, Bart., G W. Hartley, A Simpson, Wm. Mackintosh, R

Macrae, Donald Macrae, A Raffan

2004

President - R W K Stirling

Representative Members - R W K Stirling, R MacKay

Secretary and Treasurer - S Torrie

Ice Rink - Inverness

The Fairburn estate, in Strathconon, founded a curling club in 1885, playing on the large pond adjacent to Fairburn House, the residence of John Stirling of Fairburn, who became patron of the new club.

The club was represented at the inaugural meeting of the Ross-shire County Curlers Association in November 1893 by Mr Joseph Chalmers and finished as runners-up in the first Ross-shire bonspiel, held at Muir of Ord on 12 January 1895.

By 1903, their entry in the Royal Caledonian Annual contained a total of sixteen regular and nine occasional members. The committee of management comprised Joseph Jackson, James Chisholm, John Burns and Joseph Chalmers, with the Rev J A MacFarlane as club captain.

The club was also included in the draw for the Northern Counties Bonspiel of 1909-10, to be played at Muir of Ord, a match between teams representing North and South, the line of demarcation being drawn between Ross-shire and Inverness-shire at Muir of Ord.

Transport to the contest was organised by the Highland Railway Company, which agreed the following terms for curlers attending the Bonspiel: "... if held on other day than Saturday, one fare and forth for double journey from all stations from Brora North and Newtonmore South to Muir of Ord, available on the day of the Match. Minimum fare - one shilling. Curling stones will be conveyed at owner's risk, free of charge. Stones will be conveyed from Muir of Ord Station to Pond, and back." We hardly need reminding that railways did things rather well in those days.

Twenty-six years later, on Friday 21 February 1936, a similar match is recorded at Muir of Ord. The ice is described as "in splendid condition with hard frost prevailing throughout". The match ended in a win for the South by 50 shots, but the trophy awarded to the rink with the largest majority over its opponents was Fairburn 1, skipped by Major John Stirling.

The Fairburn legacy to Ross-shire curling has been their absolute commitment to traditional standards in the game. They have, perhaps reluctantly, accepted the move from outside ice to the indoor precision of the modern game - "snooker on ice" it has been called. But the Fairburn club has continued to demand that the traditional values of the outside game should not be forgotten. For this Ross-shire curlers will always be grateful. Curling is, above all else, a social game, a convivial game and should be played in something approaching the Olympian spirit, a truly amateur sport.

At the present time the Fairburn club is flourishing in the capable hands of Roderick Stirling and Rod Mackay, President and Secretary respectively. Roderick is a past president of the Province and Rod is their longest serving member, now continuing his career as a player in the recently formed Ross-shire Seniors' League.

Roderick W K Stirling of Fairburn and Roderick Mackay, Fairburn, receiving the Gold Medal of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in honour of 50 years' membership of Fairburn Club.

The club celebrated its Centenary on Saturday 30 November 1985 at a Bonspiel attended by all of the Ross-shire clubs. Best wishes are extended to the club in its second century.



Photograph of the late Roderick W K Stirling (latterly Sir Roderick W K Stirling) on receiving the Gold Medal of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in honour of 50 years' membership of Fairburn Curling Club.

FEARN AND LOCHEYE

(Transferred to Sutherland Province 1993)

1904

Patrons -

Capt. Macleod of Cadboll, Col. Murray of Geanies

Patronesses -

Mrs Macleod of Cadboll, Mrs Murray of Geanies, Mrs Monro of Allan

President - Capt. Monro of Allan

Vice-President - Thomas Douglas

Representative Members - Jonathan Middleton, Thomas Douglas

Chaplain - Rev Chas. Robertson, BD

Treasurer and Secretary - Edward R Hill

Committee or Council of Management -

A P Gordon, Geo. A Ross, Thomas Douglas, Jas. Scott, Wm. J Robertson, Hector Munro, Edward R Hill, Alex Ross

Honorary Members -

Wm. J Macdonald, John Gunn, Roderick Finlayson

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

John Mackay, Thos. Douglas, Edward R Hill, John Grant, Wm. J Robertson, George Douglas, Jas. Scott, Ed. McKenzie, Donald Munro, Geo. A Ross, A P Gordon, John Ross 3, Hector Munro, Alex Ross, J A H Gair, Angus Ross

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

John Ross 2, Robt. Gordon, John Ross 1, A O Spence, Capt. Macleod, Capt. Monro, Rev C Robertson, Jon. Middleton, Col. Murray, John Dempster, S Hope, C L McKenzie, George Gordon

The oldest Curling Club in Ross and Cromarty was the Easter Ross and St Duthus Club, which was instituted in 1853, and became a member of the Royal Club in 1861. Early patrons of the Club were the Count and Countess De Serra Largo of Tarlogie. The President at the time was Mr Roderick Finlayson, and the Vice-President Provost Donald Fowler, Tain.

The name St Duthus later became linked with Locheye, forming the present-day club of Locheye and St Duthus which, according to the most recent RCCC handbook, was instituted in 1897 and became a Royal Club member in 1898. However, the RCCC handbook for 1903 names the club, at this point, as Fearn and Locheye, quoting the same dates for institution and membership of the Royal Club. The point at which the change occurred is unclear from the existing records. Perhaps some Easter Ross reader could clarify this?

In these early years there was a very large number of clubs in Easter Ross. As well as those already mentioned, there was Alness, instituted 1895; Ardgay/Bonar 1897; Ferindonald 1889; Logie Easter 1896; and, finally, Edderton, which joined the Royal Club in 1902. Swordale is also recorded as a member of the Ross-shire Curling Association in the first competition drawn up by the Association in November 1893, but the name is absent from the RCCC record. Presumably they did not seek membership?

Sadly, at the present time, the only Easter Ross club remaining within the Ross-shire Province is Alness. This season the link with St Duthus and Locheye was broken when they elected to join the recently formed Sutherland Province, playing out of the Royal Marine Hotel Rink at Brora. This is

not a bad decision on their part, recognising the excellent facilities there and a reduction of travelling time to the Brora rink.

Ross-shire curling also owes a great debt to Ken and Thelma Davison of the St Duthus and Locheye Club, who were extremely active members of the Province. Ken was Ross-shire President in 1970 and Thelma was a founder member of Ross Ladies and also their Match Secretary.

The Easter Ross contribution to Ross-shire curling has been considerable.

FERINDONALD

1904

Patrons -

Sir Hector Munro, Bart., of Foulis, R C Munro-Ferguson of Novar, MP, W Shoolbred of Wyvis
Patroness - Lady Munro of Foulis

President - Sir H Munro

Vice-President - D Munro

Representative Members - Sir Hector Munro, D Munro

Treasurer and Secretary - A McNab

Committee or Council of Management -

Sir Hector Munro, D Ross, D McKinnon, A McNab, A McDonald, D Munro

Honorary Members -

R C Munro-Ferguson of Novar, MP, W Shoolbred, Esq

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

Sir H Munro, D McKenzie, D McRaw, W Paterson, A McNab, A Macdonald, J Campbell, D Moore,
D Ross, D Munro, D McKinnon, A Dingwall

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

A Chisholm, C F Munro, D Sinclair, R Small

The Ferindonald club was represented at the first meeting of the Ross-shire County Curlers Association on 22 November 1893 by Messrs MacNab and MacCran, and is recorded as member until 20 December 1905. A noted member of this club was Sir Hector Munro, Bart. of Foulis, who became President of the Association in that year. An extract from the Ross-shire Journal in 1979, headed Forty-four Years Ago, confirms that Sir Hector Munro was President of what, by this time, was called Ross and Cromarty Curling Club in October 1935, but there is no clear evidence that the Ferindonald club was extant at this time. Does anyone have further local knowledge?

It is clear, from the evidence of many club minutes, that two world wars effectively slowed down, even closed down, the development of organised curling in the Province. Any curling going on was probably played locally and spontaneously as weather conditions allowed.

But all that changed after 1945. Regular annual meetings of the Province are recorded from 16 November 1949 right up to the present. The correspondent for a large part of that time was H G Munro, of the Muir of Ord club, who remained Province secretary and treasurer until 1969. During this period the pattern of curling in Ross Province was laid down. At the same time the development of inter-Province matches, locally within the Highland Group and internationally as representatives of Scotland against Canada, USA, France and Norway, is catalogued.

The particular problem that had to be overcome, of course, was the availability of good ice. Often, bonspiels were cancelled because of the weather. Attempts to play more sustained competitions proved fitful, always at the mercy of our unreliable climate.

In the end, in spite of misgivings, the era of indoor ice dawned. During the Fifties it meant the long haul to Perth. A long and wearisome journey it was, even when fortified with "l'eau de vie". And yet the game flourished, so that when the Aviemore Centre opened in 1966, and a few years later the Inverness Ice Centre, there was on hand an organised curling structure to take advantage. Ross

Province owes a great deal to the office-bearers of the fifties and sixties - the Rev John Sellar, Ferintosh; James Cameron, Belmaduthy; Anderson Rae, Alness; Dr John Anderson, Killearnan; Donald MacLean, Allangrange; J D Wilson, Caberfeidh; A J Mann, Avoch; W Smith, Strathpeffer; James MacIntyre, Fairburn; Iain Mackay, Muir of Ord; Alan Stewart, Belmaduthy. And, towards the end of the sixties, a very familiar name for today's curlers - Allan Moore, Alness, a name inscribed on our 'A' League trophy. Now where did he begin to curl? Hardly a million miles from Ferindonald.

HIGHLAND RIVER PURIFICATION BOARD (ROSS-SHIRE)

Instituted 1981 Admitted 1981
[See Dingwall Curling Club]

1981

President - A Rosie

Representative Members - A Rosie, D Stewart

Secretary - D Stewart

Treasurer - A MacAskill

Regular Members -

R Brown, R Fyfe, J Hunter, D Stewart, S Shanks, J Carson, A Rosie, A MacAskill, D Buchanan

Honorary Member - T Inglis

Occasional Member - 1 Total Membership – 11

INVERGORDON ACADEMY

Instituted 2003 Admitted 2003

2004

President - Mrs Linda Thompson

Representative Members - Mr Allan, Mr Stephen Batchen

Secretary -Miss Nicola Macleannan

Treasurer - Mr Allan Macleannan

Match Secretary - Mr Stephen Batchen

Ice Rink - Brora

Members (Junior under 18 years) -

S Batchen, Miss G Cameron, Miss J Cameron, N Campbell, Miss J Macleannan, Miss N Macleannan

Members (Ordinary) -

Mrs J Macleannan, Mrs L Thompson

KILLEARNAN

Instituted 1902 Admitted 1904

2004

President - J Dalgetty

Representative Members - J Dalgetty, W I Dalgetty

Secretary - A MacDonald

Treasurer - W I Dalgetty

Ice Rink - Inverness

Members (Ordinary) -

J Dalgetty, W Dalgetty, A Macdonald, I Macdonald, A Mackenzie, Ms C Sprint

The Killearnan club was first constituted in 1902 and joined the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1904. Membership lapsed during the Great War of 1914-18 and the club was not re-constituted until Tuesday 8 October 1929, at a meeting held in Tore School at which Mr Angus Murray presided. Mr James Kirk was appointed Secretary.

The original club members were: John Younie, Dave Mackay, Charles Mackinnon, George MacGregor, Ian MacLeod, Donald MacLean, Donald Mackenzie (blacksmith), and Hugh Clark. Captain Evan N Burton-Mackenzie was invited to be Club Patron.

Annual subscriptions were set at three shillings but this amount was quickly raised to five shillings as it became clear that the curling pond would require preparation every year, e.g. rashes had to be scythed to improve access. The pond was improved by planting trees around it and by judicious use of a bulldozer. Electric lighting was provided in the 50's. Sad to say, the pond is no longer extant, buried beneath that mound familiar to every northern motorist - the Tore Roundabout.

The club, quite apart from its curling interests, was also a major social influence, running regular dances, initially in the Munloch Hall and later in the "new" Tore District Hall. During the Second War, 1939-45, the proceeds of these dances were donated to the local Prisoners of War Fund and to the Royal Northern Infirmary.

Club meetings were held, at first, in the Tore school, but from 1942 in the Kilcoy Arms Hotel, proprietor Hugh Clark, who was also chief factotum - President, Secretary and Treasurer - during the war years.

Dr John Anderson, a physician in Fortrose, became President in 1945 - a post he held until his death in 1964. He joined the club in 1935 and he was, without doubt, a major influence in the development of the Killearnan club and Ross-shire curling as a whole. Dr Anderson was first elected President of the Province on 5 November 1952, demitting office on 13 October 1955. For many years he was Provincial representative to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. He will be long remembered as a fine curler and a prominent upholder of curling tradition, especially as 'My Lord' at many Curlers' Courts during the fifties.

The trophy instituted in his memory remains the primary event in the Ross-shire curling calendar. The 'Dr John Anderson Bonspiel', in its present form as an all-day event, was first held at Aviemore in December 1968. The first winners were an Avoch rink comprising John Leggat, Billy Gill, Bill

Moodie and 'Dodo' Wilson (skip). Ross Ladies were runners-up. The Killearnan club won the event in 1980 - lead Richard Bethune; second Kenny Mackenzie, third John Dalgetty (junior); skip W I Dalgetty. The club was also successful in 1987 and 1988 with the rink of: lead Linda Moir; second Denise Dalgetty; third Gary Cameron; skip John Dalgetty. The club has been well served by its officials - John D MacIver, President 1964-1977; and Donald Bain, 1978-1982; when John Dalgetty took over. Many congratulations are due to Willie Dalgetty, now in his eighteenth year as club secretary.

Public Meeting – Tuesday 8 October 1929

A public meeting was held in Tore School on Tuesday 8 October 1929 for the purpose of re-forming the Killearnan Curling Club. Mr Angus Murray was called upon to preside.

1. It was agreed that Mr James Kirk be appointed Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.
2. It was resolved to form a Local Club, but not to apply for affiliation with The Royal Caledonian Club this season.
3. The secretary was asked to approach Captain E N Burton-Mackenzie of Kilcoy to act as President of the Club.
4. A working committee, consisting of Messrs Jas. Kirk, D Mackenzie (blacksmith), Charles Mackinnon and Hugh Clark, was formed.
5. It was agreed that the subscription for this season be 3/-.
6. All present and hereafter named intimated their willingness to become members: Messrs J Younie, Dav. Mackay, D Cameron, Ian Macleod, A Murray, D Mackenzie, Chas. Mackinnon, Geo. Macgregor, Don. Maclean.
7. An expenditure of 10/- paid by the secretary for cutting the grass in the pond etc. was approved.

These minutes approved 27/2/30. (Signed) A Murray Chairman

Draft Constitution and Rules of Killearnan

1. Killearnan Curling Club, first constituted 1902, joined the Royal Caledonian Club 1904, fell into abeyance during the War and removed from the Royal Caledonian's list, reconstituted 1929 with the intention of joining the Royal Caledonian as a new Club for season 1930-31.

2. As the Pond and surroundings were made over to the Club free for all time by the proprietor of Allangrange Estate, subject to the approval of successors, and fences, club-house and work upon the Pond were executed by subscription; no individual or party has any rights to the foregone, nor has any rights been claimed when the Club was in abeyance, either by the Estate or other party, and the reconstituted Club has ...[paragraph unfinished in copy]

3. The Constitution of the Club shall be as suggested by the Royal Caledonian Club and as published by them in the Annual 1928-29, pp. xv, chap. II, and the Rules shall be those approved by the Royal Caledonian Club.

The first annual meeting of this Club shall take place during the first week of October, so that the printed lists may be in the hands of the secretary of the Royal Club before 15th October.

4. Rules governing membership and fees, use of Pond, access to club-house, stones etc.

Annual General Meeting 1958

The Annual General Meeting of the above Club was held in Kilcoy Arms Hotel on [date not entered].

The following members were present: Dr J R Anderson (President) C Wylie, J Dalgetty, D McLean, G Brooks, J Fraser, J McIver, A McLellan, I Paul.

Apologies - W Martin, Dr Jack Anderson

Minutes - The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and approved.

Reports - David Dalgetty ran a number of dances to improve our funds, but unfortunately due to lack of public support these dances were not a financial success. Members unanimously thanked David Dalgetty for his hard work and time spent in trying to improve Club funds.

Lighting - It was agreed that the sodium lighting from a curling point of view was not successful. It was agreed that Dr Anderson approach a member of the Hydro Electric Board with the view of returning the lights or seek advice to the best way of selling them.

Presentation - It was agreed to donate one pound, at the suggestion of the Province Committee, towards a presentation for Jack Bookless, whom as we all know, has organised Perth Bonspiels for all the North Clubs and made such occasions an enormous success.

Levy - After much discussion it was agreed not to support the motion of Caledonian Curling Club that each Local Club should pay in advance one shilling per member towards a special fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses of visiting teams from America and Canada.

Pond - John Dalgetty, Pondmaster, was instructed to ensure the maintenance of the pond and call on any member as required.

Fees - Annual fee to remain at 10/- per member.

Funds - Executive Committee to explore means of increasing funds.

Office Bearers - President Dr J R Anderson re-elected. Vice President Dr Jack Anderson. Secretary - I Paul. Treasurer - W Martin.

Executive Committee - J Dalgetty, J McIver, J Fraser, D McLean, D Bain, P Dalgetty.

Office Bearers Ex Officio

Skips - Skips were re-appointed: Dr J R Anderson, D Bain, J Dalgetty, J Fraser.

Pondmaster - John Dalgetty

This was all the business and after a vote of thanks the meeting was closed.

John R Anderson

Annual General Meeting 1959

The Annual General Meeting of the above Club was held in Kilcoy Arms Hotel on 26 March 1959.

The following members were present: Dr J R Anderson (President), Mr W Martin (Treasurer), I Paul (Secretary), J McIver, Ian Bain, J Dalgetty, D Bain, E McFarquhar, J Fraser, J McRae, W J Dalgetty, D McLean, L Brooks, D Dalgetty

Minutes - The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and approved.

Reports - The Financial Report was read and approved. W Martin was congratulated on his control of the difficult financial position.

The club members were very pleased by the numbers of persons who have joined the club this season.

The President recalled the successful curling season. Members were represented at Loch Leven, Provincial Bonspiel and inter-Provincial Bonspiel. There were also three Curlers' Courts, Strathpeffer Club, Muir of Ord Club, and the Province Court also at Strathpeffer.

The members also had an excellent season's curling with about twelve games played with neighbouring clubs.

The President also gave thanks to members who gave assistance in one way or another in preparing the pond in readiness for curling. The President reminded members that the maintenance of the Pond was an "all year round job" and he would like members to attend as often as possible when their help was required during the summer.

Lights - After discussion it was agreed that the sodium lighting was not suitable for curling and it was agreed to sell these lights to Hydro Electric Board for the sum of £60.

Subscriptions - It was agreed that the annual subscription be that new young members be for the first five years 10/- and thereafter £1.

Pond - It was agreed that members would co-operate on maintenance of the pond. Drainage, weeds, fence, etc.

D McLean - drainage

C Wylie - Machine to excavate drain and 2 dozen posts

Shed - to be harled by D Bain and J Fraser

Office Bearers - Office Bearers unanimously re-elected.

Skips - Skips re-appointed (extra skips if membership permits) Dr J R Anderson, D Bain, J Dalgetty, J Fraser.

Pondmaster - John Dalgetty

Loch Leven - Two rinks if required this season.

Rinks - It was agreed Skips would be responsible for organisation of rinks.

John R Anderson

Annual General Meeting 1964

The Annual General Meeting of the above Club was held in Kilcoy Arms Hotel, Tore, on Wednesday 27 May 1964.

The following members were present: J McIver (Vice-President), I Paul (Secretary), D Bain, J Dalgetty, J Fraser, W J Dalgetty, E McFarquhar, J Bain, C Fraser, A U McKenzie, S Jack.

Apologies from W W Martin, D McLean, G Brooks, S McIntosh, Morrison

Dr J R Anderson - J McIver (Vice-President) expressed the feelings of the meeting on the death of our President, Dr John Anderson.

"He was a good friend and a grand Curler who held the Club together and was always eager to help young curlers. His death was a severe blow to curlers everywhere but more especially to his friends and Curlers of Killearnan Curling Club. He was President of the Club since 1945-46 and member of Killearnan CC since 1935. He was a personality who will be sadly missed."

The company were upstanding and observed a minute's silence in his memory.

A letter from the Club to Mrs Anderson expressing our sympathy will be sent.

Stones - J McIver and J Dalgetty were instructed to visit Mrs Anderson and find out her wishes regarding the curling stones belonging to Dr John which are in the Clubhouse.

It was also agreed that the Club members subscribe a Trophy in memory of Dr John but the form it would take remains for discussion.

Finance - Owing to various reasons the secretary was unable to arrange the Annual General Meeting at the end of the curling season, and unfortunately when arranged Mr Martin, Treasurer, was not available to attend so there was no financial statement.

The statement will be given at a meeting before the curling season begins. Fees will be payable on that date.

It was agreed, subject to annual review, that the fee be £5 per established players and £2.10. 0 for junior members. This will not be a voluntary payment but a direct fee.

Games - It was agreed that the Club should be represented in matches as follows:

Grand Match - 2 rinks
Ross-shire Provincial Bonspiel - 2 rinks
Inter-Province - 2 rinks
Pottie Cup - 1 rink
Bookless Trophy - 2 rinks
President's Cup - 1 rink
Trophy competition - individual Skips

Skips - D Bain, J Dalgetty, J Fraser and W W Martin. E McFarquhar was appointed fifth skip.

Annual General Meeting 1983

The Annual General Meeting of the Killearnan Curling Club was held in Kilcoy Arms Hotel on the 22 September 1983.

Apologies - J A Dalgetty, K Mackenzie, Sandy Munro

Present - E Jack, Irene Smith, H Smith, A Brett, A McKenzie, R Bethune, Allan MacDonald, J Dalgetty, D Bain and W I Dalgetty.

Agenda - The Secretary intimated that he entered 3 Rinks, ACD Leagues and the Rinks in the other competitions which was agreed at the meeting held on the 23/6/83.

2 Rinks in Allangrange

3 Rinks in Dr Anderson's (Aviemore)

1 Rink in The Farmers

2 Rinks in Outside Bonspiel

2 Rinks in the Talbot

1 Rink in the MacGregor Kettle (Aviemore)

Secretary pointed out that the 2 Rinks entered in the Talbot Bonspiel, a big waiting list for this competition from the previous year and we were not included in the draw.

Election of Office Bearers

Mr D Bain (President) intimated that he felt that it was time he stood down and let the Vice-President take over. He proposed John Dalgetty (Vice-President) to take the chair, which was unanimously agreed.

On the motion of Alisdair Mackenzie seconded by Evan Jack, Raymond Bethune was elected Vice-President, and W I Dalgetty remain Secretary/Treasurer.

The new President, J Dalgetty, thanked Mr D Bain for his interest and support to the club over a long number of years (5 as President).

The points competition was held on the 11 February 1984 along with Caberfeidh.

The Killearnan Medal was won by A Brett.

Due to the large number of people that turned up it was agreed in future that Killearnan book ice for points competition of our own.

On 6 April 1984 J A Dalgetty, Iain Bain, W Dalgetty and J Dalgetty made the trip to Dornoch to attend a Curlers' Court. J Dalgetty (Jnr) went through the Court and an enjoyable time was held by all. Congratulations to J Dalgetty and to Dornoch Club for holding a very good Court.

Financial Statement - The Secretary gave a financial statement which was approved and it was agreed that subs remain at £5 per member. He also pointed out that the subs would be very likely increased at the next AGM.

This concluded the business of the meeting which was closed with a vote of thanks to new President and Secretary.

Start of '87 Season

The new curling season is about to begin, but Killearnan Club recall with pride the unique occasion, when playing in the 'B' League against a rink from Ross-shire Ladies, they scored an eight-ender, in an event sponsored by the Johnnie Walker firm. They received their Johnnie Walker Awards from the president of the Ross Province, Mrs Helen Munro, at the annual general meeting this year. Congratulations were extended to them on the first eight-ender in the history of Killearnan Club. The winning rink was Linda Moir (Lead), Irene Smith (2nd), Gary Cameron (3rd) and John Dalgetty (Skip).

LEDGOWAN CURLING CLUB

Ledgowan Curling Club is the furthest west outpost of the Ross-shire Province and takes its name from the Ledgowan Hotel at Achnasheen, whose proprietor, Graham Millard, instituted the club in 1973, the same year that they joined the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. The club is very much a family affair with his wife, son and daughter-in-law as team members. Graham is a passionate supporter of Ross County Football Club, as is his son, so they have been more than pleased by developments at Scottish League level. Graham also speaks with a very strong English accent, but his heart is certainly Scottish. The Ledgowan club are currently in the semi-finals of the President's Cup so they are enjoying a successful season - well done.

MUIR OF ORD

1904

Patron - Major Mackenzie of Ord
Patroness - Mrs Mackenzie of Ord

President - K A Maclean

Vice-Presidents - Wm. Tuach, Wm. Mackintosh (B)

Representative Members - Don. Fraser, Alex Robertson

Secretary - William Forbes

Treasurer - Alex Robertson

Committee or Council of Management -

Wm. Christie, Donald Fraser, Don. McLeod

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

Donald Fraser, K A Maclean, William Forbes, Wm. MacLennan, Colin Robertson, Wm. Mackintosh (A), Alex Robertson, Wm. Mackintosh (B), Alex Gordon, James Fraser, C S. Spence, Wm. Tuach, Wm. Ross, Alex McKenzie, Alex Lennox, Wm. Christie, Dun. Cameron, Alex Mackintosh, Capt. McKenzie-Gillanders, Angus Tuach, John Tuach, Don. McLeod, Rodk. Tuach

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

James Taylor, John Cameron, Major McKenzie, Robert Sinclair, John Campbell, Alex Fraser, Wm. Murray, Donald Macivor, Malcolm Macaulay

2004

President - Moira MacDonald

Representative Members - Moira MacDonald, J McKie

Secretary and Treasurer - J McKie

Ice Rink - Inverness

Honorary Member - A Butter

Ordinary Members -

Mrs C Dickie, A Hoare, Mrs B Hoare, Mrs F Inglis, T Inglis, Mrs A Leiper, D Lyall, G Macdonald, Mrs M Macdonald, F Mackenzie, G MacLennan, R MacLennan, J McKie, R McWilliam, Mrs I Meldrum, S Rose, A Rosie, R Urquhart

A number of clubs in the County have already celebrated their own centenary - Fairburn, Strathpeffer, Belmaduthy and Muir of Ord.

The latter became affiliated to the Royal Caledonian Club in 1892 and the club representative at the historic, inaugural meeting of "the Ross-shire County Curlers Association" on 22 November 1893 was Hugh R Adam. Their first official match as part of the new Province was when drawn against Ferindonald in the first inter-club competition. This match did not take place due to lack of suitable ice - a very common occurrence in those days of exclusively outside ice.

The first Provincial bonspiel, for a trophy donated by J D Fletcher of Rosehaugh, was played at Muir of Ord on 12 January 1895, including for the first time rinks from Cromarty and Avoch.

Muir of Ord rinks were drawn against Rosehaugh, Belmaduthy and Fairburn, finishing with an average pointage of minus one on the three games played. The winner of the event was Belmaduthy. The scoring system, based on average shots of all rinks of a particular club taking part in the competition, was considered disadvantageous by clubs entering a large number of rinks. In the future a maximum of four rinks per club was permitted.

Muir of Ord was the favoured site for Provincial and Northern Counties curling in these early years, probably on Loch-an-Dohan. Considerable difficulty was experienced over the years with a sluice, operated to retain sufficient water in the loch over the winter period, requiring regular repair by members, and also financial support from the Province. Eventually, agreement was reached with the local farmer to flood the lochan between 1 December and 28 February for the princely annual rental of ten pounds.

The club constructed an outside curling pond in 1957, the only one presently in use in Ross Province. The driving force behind the scheme was the club president at that time, David Macrae, local police sergeant. The new facility was immediately in demand, and the first matches for the Provincial President's Cup were played there from 1957. The trophy was presented by Alex Mann, Avoch.

The Allan Moore Trophy, presented for Provincial club competition as a league trophy, was first played at the Muir of Ord rink in season 1963-64, and for the first four years of this competition home advantage proved decisive as Muir of Ord dominated.

All club curling is now done indoors for the most part but the outdoor bonspiel is still regarded as "real" curling, when the game is taken back to its roots and all the old traditions are revived. Weather conditions are of course critical and the succession of mild winters in recent years has limited the scope of outdoor events. The last outdoor Provincial bonspiel in Ross-shire was held at Locheye in 1979, and the event was won by Muir of Ord, in the same year, incidentally, as the last Grand Match.

The Muir of Ord club has contributed a great deal to curling in Ross-shire. It has a small but dedicated membership. Anyone living in the local community is welcome to participate.

From the Annual of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club for 1902-03:

THE COURT AT MUIR OF ORD
Air - "When the Bloom is on the Rye"

The winter nights were growing short
And ushering in the spring,
When Ross-shire curlers met in Court
To play and sport and sing.
The gathering place agreed by all,
Was good old Muir of Ord;
From all the airts keen curlers came,
And Dewar (1) was 'My Lord'.

Then hooray, my lads, for county of Ross!
With them let me live and die,
Among the ponds of crystal ice
When the frost is in the sky.

There were Tuachs, Chalmers, old and young,
One of the 'Starry' Rosses;
MacLennan, Robertson, Macgrath,
Two William Mackintoshes.
Macdonalds and Mackenzies and
Macraes were quite a crowd;
A Birnie, Gordon, Taylor, Leach -
All guests of 'The Macleod' (2).

Then hooray

Five-and-twenty curlers keen
That famous night discovered
The chains and bands of curling when
To curling they were brothered.
Five-and-twenty, brave and bold,
Each one put through his paces,
Were all presented to 'My Lord'
With 'ensigns' on their faces.

Then hooray, my lads, for a Curling Court!
With them let me live and die,
Among the ponds of crystal ice
When the frost is in the sky.

'My Lord' reigned absolute all night long,
The curlers early so found,
As each one struggled to avoid
The costly personal pronoun.
Young Walter (3) of the many names
Much laughter soon begat
By trying, within the laws of Court,
To toast 'My Lord's' old hat.

Oh, leave that hat with the curlers of Ross!
With them let it live and die,
Among the ponds of crystal ice
When the frost is in the sky.

Macleay (4) got leave to rise and tried
To praise the Muir of Ord.
It cost him tenpence: he was stopped
By order of 'My Lord'.
Then Cameron's (5) sentiment evoked
A cheer of three times three,
That sweethearts should be turned to wives,
And wives aye sweethearts be.

Then hooray for the girls of the county of Ross!
With them let it live and die,
Among the ponds of crystal ice
When the frost is in the sky.

To jinks the fines Macaulay (6) spoke
(And Peter sang) in Gaelic;
Dumbfounded stood the officer
While we enjoyed the frolic.
'My Lord' translated what was said,
But Naughty (7) still stood puzzled;
We never saw a curler in
A state so clean bamboozled.

Then hooray for the Gael of the county of Ross!
With them let it live and die,
Among the ponds of crystal ice
When the frost is in the sky.

At last came, with deep regret,
The selling of the stoup,
As an auction on the market stance
Was the bidding at that roup.
And so the fun went rolling on,
We all declared it fine.
I must not tell when the curtain fell
By the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Then hooray for the fun of a Curling Court!
With them let it live and die,
Among the ponds of crystal ice,
That Godsend which money cannot buy.

Curliana

From The North Star of January 1902.

- (1) Mr A Dewar, town clerk, Dingwall
 - (2) Mr D Macleod, proprietor of Tarradale Hotel
 - (3) Mr W R T Middleton, solicitor, Dingwall
 - (4) Ex-Provost Macleay, Dingwall
 - (5) Mr D Cameron, merchant, Muir of Ord
 - (6) Mr Macaulay, chief constable of Ross and Cromarty
 - (7) Mr A Naughty, JP, Dingwall
-

MUIR OF ORD CURLING CLUB CENTENARY 1892 - 1992

INTRODUCTION

These notes have been prepared as a historical record of the Club which should prove of interest to past and present members. Their preparation is one of several events organised to celebrate the centenary of the Club's affiliation to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1892. Three main sources of information were identified for the research. Unfortunately the Club's own minutes are restricted to the period 1934-1939 and from 1946 to the present day. However, Ross Province's minutes are available for two earlier periods from 1893 to 1897 and from 1905 to 1906. The Club has also kept a complete record of all outdoor curling matches on their artificial rink situated behind the Tarradale Hotel. The rink is illustrated in figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1 General view of outdoor pond

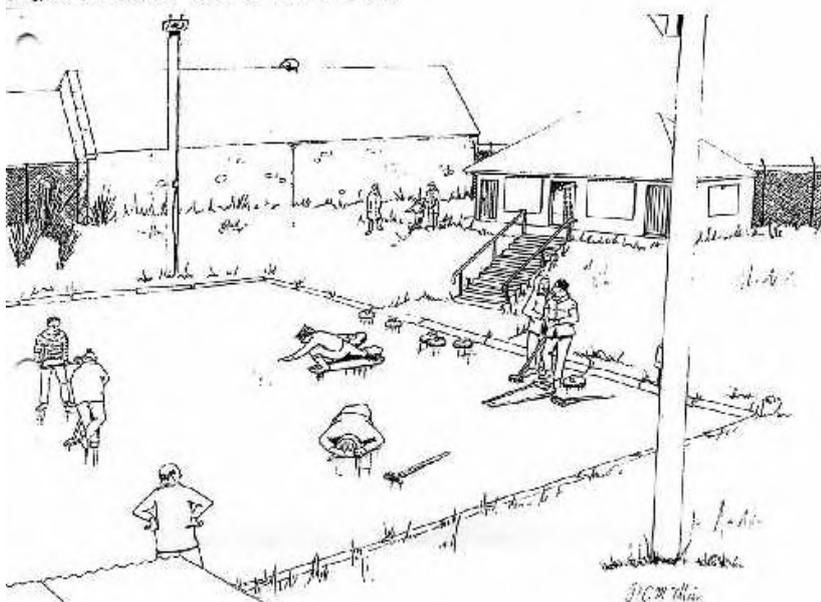
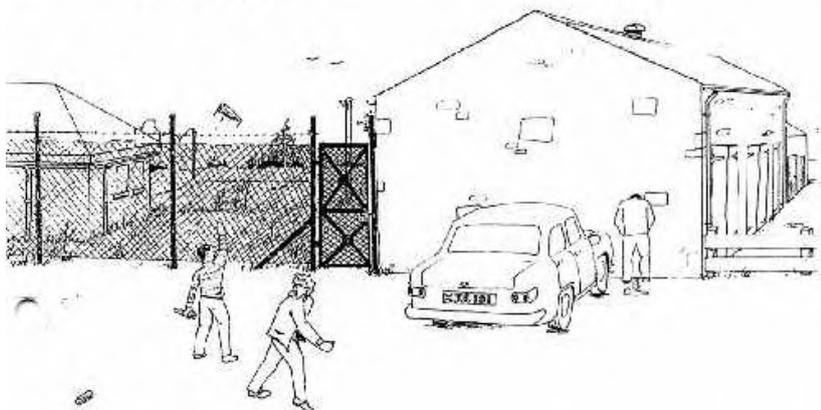


Figure 2 - Of course Muir of Ord Curling Club lends itself to many other activities in the village



The notes have been enhanced considerably by these excellent cartoons prepared by Daniel McAteer, a current member of the club.

The following is a list of the club presidents over the period of some 58 years covered by the minutes:

1934-36 John Fraser
1936-38 Angus Tuach
1938-39 Collinson Hall Robertson
1939-40 William Burns
Gap in Minutes during World War II
1946-47 J M Gammie
1947-48 Murdoch Mackenzie
1948-49 G Urquhart
1949-58 David Macrae
1958-62 Ian Mackay
1962-64 Ken Chisholm
1964-67 Walter Malcolm
1967-69 A J Fraser
1969-71 H G Munro
1971-73 A Mackay
1973-75 A MacEwan
1975-77 John Webster
1977-79 Alistair Butter
1979-80 John Webster
1980-82 Dennis Noble
1982-84 Bob Hamilton
1984-86 Tom Stewart
1986-88 Gordon Macdonald
1988-90 Tom Inglis
1990-92 Ross Urquhart
1992-present Albert Hoare

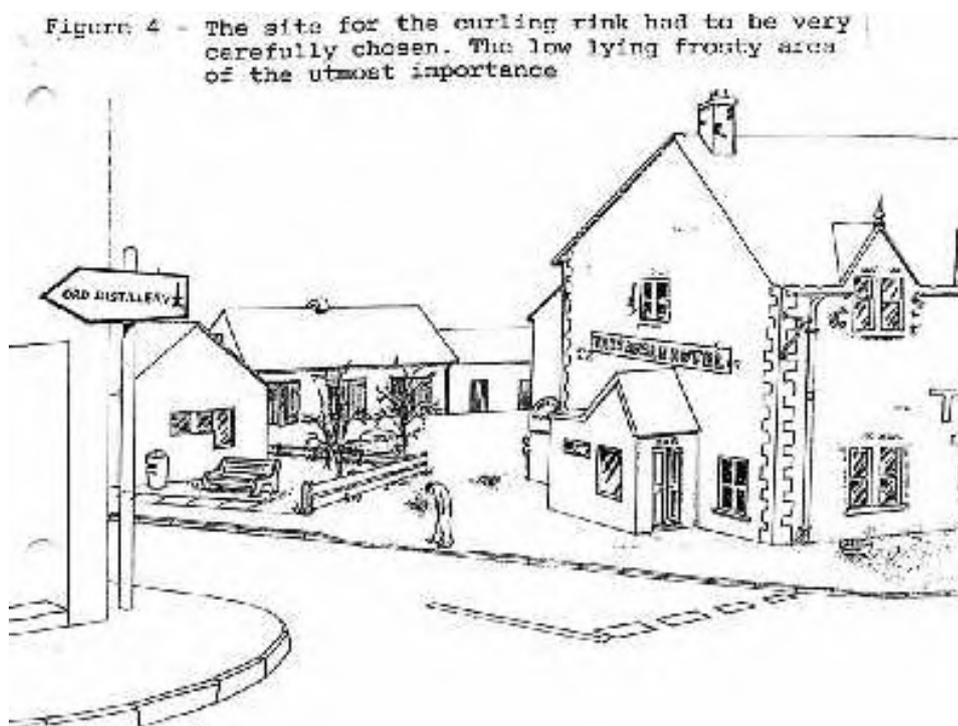
This record will be updated as soon as possible by reference to the RCCC Annuals but on the basis of the records to date the longest serving president was David Macrae, the local police sergeant, who served for nine years between 1949 and 1958 during which time the idea of an artificial rink was first conceived and finally executed. He was a member of the Club from 1939 until his death in 1959. Members of the Club have been eternally in his debt for his leadership of a dedicated group of members who worked relentlessly to complete the construction of the outdoor rink. It remains the only active outdoor curling venue in the Province. Figure 3 shows work underway on the artificial rink. [Fig. 3 not capable of reproduction.] Other outstanding service by office bearers over the same period includes the following:

Treasurer - J Fraser 1934-52 - 18 years
Secretary - J McGruer 1953-62 - 9 years
Treasurer - K Lines 1971-93 - 22 years
Treasurer - W Barclay 1955-71 - 16 years
Secretary - W Malcolm 1967-79 - 12 years
Secretary - J McKie 1983-93 - 10 years

PROVINCE RECORDS

In November 1893 the Club was represented at a meeting convened by the Caberfeidh Curling Club in the National Hotel, Dingwall, which established the Ross-shire County Curlers Association for the clubs in the county associated with the RCCC. This was to be renamed the Ross and Cromarty Curling Province three years later. In the initial draw for the Association's annual competition the Club drew Ferindonald, a club no longer active in the Province, but the game was never played due to the lack of suitable ice. By 1894 the Association had agreed to play its annual competition as a one-day Bonspiel at Muir of Ord for a trophy presented by Mr Fletcher of Rosehaugh. Thirty-eight teams were entered in the draw on 12 January 1895 where Muir of Ord's opponents were Fairburn and Belmaduthy.

The following year the Province appointed a committee to meet a representative of Dochfour Estate with a view to acquiring land for curling at the Tarradale Hotel, Muir of Ord. At the same time the RCCC suggested that future Northern Counties Provincial Association Bonspiels be held at Muir of Ord. It is evident that Muir of Ord was favoured in those early years for much of the county's curling activity. It could be claimed that the topography of the site was ideal for providing suitable conditions for curling, but figure 4 suggests that there may have been alternative motives.



By the time the minutes recommence in 1949, Loch-an-Dohan, Muir of Ord, had become the regular venue for the Province Annual Bonspiel. Considerable difficulty was experienced over the years with a sluice operated to retain sufficient water in the loch over the winter period. It required regular repair by Muir of Ord members, often with financial support from their sister clubs in the Province. Eventually agreement was reached with the local farmer to flood the lochan between 1 December and 28 February in exchange for an annual rental of £10. On completion of the Club's artificial rink in 1957 the Club agreed to its use by the Province for a new knockout competition for the President's Cup presented by A Mann, Avoch. The club was to receive 5/- per player per tie for the use of the facilities. During the '60s Muir of Ord Curling Pavilion was also the venue for the Province AGMs. The Province league was first played on the Muir of Ord rink during the winter of

1963-64 when the trophy now played for in the present "A" league was donated by Allan Moore. Muir of Ord was the proud winner of the league for the first four successive years of its existence on their home ground which unfortunately does not feature on the Province trophy board in the Inverness Ice Centre where all league games were played after 1969. The Club also won the last Province outdoor Bonspiel on Loch Eye in 1979, the year of the last Grand Match which was held at the Lake of Menteith. Unfortunately the availability of indoor ice has greatly reduced the frequency of use of the Club's own outdoor rink. This is illustrated in figure 5 [not available] which shows the number of outdoor curling sessions on the artificial rink between 1963 and 1992. Whereas previously 20 to 40 sessions per season could be expected, it is now rare to play more than five sessions of outdoor curling over any winter. However, it is encouraging to see the increase in outdoor games since 1984 following the very poor numbers in the early '80s.

The members of the Muir of Ord Curling Club have always played an active part in the administration of the Province as well as the Club providing an ideal venue for competitions over the years. As already stated, the Club was present at the inaugural meeting of the Province. In 1905 William Forbes was elected secretary/treasurer. He was a well-known shopkeeper whose family still run a grocer/bakery business in the village. In 1949 H G Munro of Muir of Ord Curling Club was elected secretary/treasurer and was to remain in that post for at least 20 years. His widow still lives on Balvaird Road, Muir of Ord. To this day the Club is still represented on the Province Committee by their secretary, Jim McKie.

CLUB RECORDS

The Club's close association with the Tarradale Hotel led to its annual general meeting being held there from at least 1934 until 1961 when their pavilion became available. Many of these meetings would undoubtedly have been occasions to remember.

As early as 1934 there is reference in the minutes to lighting and a curlers' hut on the banks of Loch-an-Dohan where both Club and Province curling matches took place. From 1958 matches were played on the artificial rink constructed at the rear of the Tarradale Hotel and although since 1968-69 all Province competitions have been played indoors at the Inverness Ice Centre the Club still manages to play a few intermittent outdoor matches for their own trophies.

Over the years these facilities have been expensive to maintain for a club with a membership which has varied from only 15 to 30 members. Insurance of premises is referred to as far back as 1948 when the hut was insured for £200 and its contents £100 and of course the capital and running costs of the artificial rink have been considerable.

The pattern of increase of the membership subscription over the years is shown in figure 6 [not available] but this fell far short of meeting the costs of the artificial rink. To meet the additional costs the Club established a highly successful entertainments committee in 1952. In addition to raising the necessary funds they gained a reputation for providing much of the social entertainment in the village at that time. Their success can be measured by reference to a sale of work in 1957 which accrued a sum of £320, a notable achievement at that time. This was followed by a social evening in the Tarradale Hotel as a reward for those who had participated in the sale. It included one of Joe Mackenzie-Gillanders' well-loved cine film shows which depicted the construction of the new artificial rink. The Club organised regular New Year dances in the village hall during the '50s and '60s along with various dances and barbecues on the curling rink. They also regularly entered a float in the Amenities Association Gala parade of floats. In 1962 their topical theme was Colonel Glenn's space module. These fund-raising events are still an essential part of the life of the Club. Only two years ago a ceilidh in the village hall and a sponsored walk provided much of the funding required for the present centenary events. Over the past 30 years the Club has provided the use of the artificial rink to the Amenities Association for various gala events, the most memorable of which have been the Friday and Saturday open air dances at the closing weekend of their annual gala. The rink was also used in 1975-76 by the Golf Club for their centenary celebrations.

To this day the Club is proud of its reputation for hospitality and is one of the few remaining clubs in the Province where members still meet socially in addition to playing the ancient game. An annual dinner dance regularly attracts between 80 and 100 members and guests from sister clubs. In addition, over the last 12 years members have met for a social gathering in the pavilion at Muir of Ord following the final of their Noble Cup competition. Several of these occasions have continued well into the early hours of the following day.

Today, club members participate in two indoor club competitions. Over the season a knockout competition of teams drawn randomly compete keenly for the Noble Cup, a trophy donated by Mrs W J Noble in 1975-76. In the latter part of each season members also compete in a points competition for the Neil Whittet Memorial Cup, donated by his parents in memory of their son who was a member of the Club. Past winners of the trophies are as follows:

NOBLE CUP (Skip)
1976-77 A Butter
1977-78 M Harper

NEIL WHITTET MEMORIAL CUP

1978-79	K Chisholm	
1979-80	A Butter	
1980-81	R Hamilton	
1981-82	A Butter	D Mackenzie
1982-83	A Paul	R McWilliam
1983-84	A Butter	R Urquhart
1984-85	F Mackenzie	T Inglis
1985-86	R McWilliam	R Urquhart
1986-87	G Macdonald	Mrs B Hoare
1987-88	A Hoare	A Hoare
1988-89	A Hoare	J McKie
1989-90	A Butter	R Urquhart
1990-91		D Mackenzie
1991-92	A Hoare	R Urquhart
1992-93		D Mackenzie

The four Club trophies historically competed for outdoors are still retained for that purpose. Details are as follows:

1. Muir of Ord Rink Cup (known as the Morrison-Mackay Cup). A silver cup of 19.5 oz. troy weight, hallmarked London 1906-07.
2. Points Cup (known as the Highfield Challenge Cup). A silver cup of 14 oz. troy weight, hallmarked Sheffield 1910-11.
3. Skip's Cup (known as the Rink Challenge Cup). A silver cup of 5 oz. troy weight, hallmarked Birmingham 1910-11.
4. Pairs Cup (known as the John Fraser Challenge Cup). A plated base metal cup donated in 1962 in memory of John Fraser, a Treasurer of the Club from at least 1934 to 1952.

In 1956 the Club was also donated medals by John Fraser which had been in his possession since 1916. These are still held by the Club Secretary.

Considerable reference has already been made to the Club's artificial pond which consists of three rinks. The history of its construction and development will be of interest to members. From the Club's inception to the mid 1950s curling took place on the lochans lying between Hawthorn Road and the Black Isle Road. A substantial effort had been put into sluice maintenance and the provision and maintenance of a hut and lighting. Unfortunately, the writer has been unable to uncover any written record of that era but conversations with elderly and not so elderly residents have revealed fond memories of the wonderful scenes on the occasion of curling on the lochans.

The first mention of an artificial rink was in the minute of a meeting of October 1955 when it was raised by a member, K M Leighton. At that same meeting we find the first reference to Walter Malcolm who was to become a long-serving office bearer of the Club. This was followed by a meeting in June 1956 at which a committee comprising David Macrae, John MacGregor and the Rev. Grant were authorised to discuss with the owner, Robert Maclean, the possible purchase of part or whole of the field adjoining the natural curling pond. Three weeks later the committee notified the Club of their success in acquiring the following for a sum of £40:

- (a) the existing curling pond with seven yards above high water;
- (b) approximately 1.5 acres at the rear of the old stables at the rear of the Tarradale Hotel.

The Club still holds the titles to these parcels of land which were purchased from the trustees of the late Murdoch Maclean, a former proprietor of the Tarradale Hotel, who had been a great benefactor to the Club despite never being a playing member. For a sum of £80 Novar Estates undertook the earthworks in late 1956 to form the hollow in which the pond was constructed by members. Construction by voluntary labour commenced in the summer of 1957 and was completed in time for playing the 1957-58 season. This represented a tremendous enthusiastic effort by the members of the Club. The pond was formally opened by Sir John Stirling, Fairburn Estate.

A proposal in October 1958 to add the hose reel house was followed in October 1959 by a proposal to demolish the old clubhouse, which had been transported from the original pond, and replace it with the present pavilion, and in May 1963 the tender of £188 from William Morrison, Tomich, was accepted for the erection of the fencing around the rink. Prior to the commencement of the next winter, two dozen brushes were bought at a cost of £5 per dozen from the Institute for the Blind, Inverness. The present floodlighting poles were erected in October 1965 at the same time as the pavilion floor was fitted with vinyl tiles at a cost of £42. The most recent work undertaken was the replacement of the lighting and wiring on the rink and the pavilion in 1987.

Over the years the Club has developed a reputation for a reluctance to have women members. However, the records show that such a reputation may have been unwarranted other than for perhaps a few specific male members. The earliest Club records in 1934 refer to Mrs Mackenzie-Gillanders and Mrs Mackenzie, Ord, as patrons of the Club. Although this undoubtedly did not identify them as playing members, it equally well did not reflect a completely male-dominated organisation with no place for women. As early as 1959 Miss Peggy Logan is minuted as having attended the Annual General Meeting which was one of the last still to be held in the Tarradale Hotel. A few years later, in 1963, the then President, Ken Chisholm, proposed the formation of a ladies section of the Club with a discounted subscription fee. Today's lady members may have found that unacceptable in view of modern expectations on equality for sexes. Alistair Butter, the longest serving active member of the Club, recalls Mrs Barclay and Ivy Gammie as playing members in the past. The writer also recalls Irene Findlay and Winnie Sutherland as former lady members and today some 30% of the Club members are women.

This warranted or unwarranted reputation for disapproving of female curlers along with their undaunting belief in their prowess on the outdoor rink led the Club to a famous defeat at the hands of the Ross Ladies Club on 1 February 1977. You can imagine the situation with Ross Ladies having beaten Muir of Ord during a league game at the Inverness Ice Centre. In the bar during the discussion after the game, Muir of Ord obviously claimed that the ladies would be unable to beat them at their game, the outdoor game, the game for which they had lifted the trophy for the first four Province League competitions. They were to be proved horribly wrong when a rink of Helen Munro, Babs Ross, Liz Barras and Jean MacAllister beat the Muir of Ord rink of Billy Noble, Ackie Campbell, Ken Chisholm and Sandy MacEwan by 11 shots to 10, watched by Dennis Noble, Ron Harper and Walter Malcolm. Although having beaten Muir of Ord, rumour has it that some, if not all, of the ladies had little recollection of the event, having been somewhat overwhelmed by the hospitality provided.

It would not be appropriate to end these notes on a defeat as the Club has seen many successes. However, its greatest success of all must be the countless hours of entertainment, the friendships and relationships it has provided its members with over the years. These are major successes indeed which outweigh the receipt of any trophy and must inevitably be attributed to the members themselves who, over the year, have given the Club its changing image. It only remains to wish the Club every success in the future. Long may it flourish and its future members derive the same pleasures from its existence as members past and present.

RESOLIS

1904

Patron - C Shaw Mackenzie

Patroness - Mrs Gunn Munro

President - Major G M Gunn Munro

Vice-President - Chas. Young

Representative Members - R Macintyre, Capt. G M Gunn Munro

Chaplain - Rev J D McCulloch

Treasurer - M Campbell

Secretary - Alex Craigen

Committee or Council of Management -

M Campbell, W Campbell, C Ferguson, R Mackenzie, F R S Black, J Sinton, A Craigen, Major Munro, J Macdonald

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

Major Munro, D Mackenzie, C Ferguson, J Grant, J Macdonald, A Fraser, J Sinton, Chas. Young, W Campbell, R Mackenzie, A Craigen, F R S Black, M Campbell, R Paterson, R Macintyre

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

J Junor, W Stewart, J Watson, M McRae, R J Gillanders, W Mackenzie, Dr Dick, Arch. Watson, C Jack, A W Brook, H Munro

ROSEHAUGH

1904

President - James Douglas Fletcher

Representative Members -

James Douglas Fletcher, Rev John Gibson

Chaplain - Rev John Gibson

Treasurer and Secretary - Thomas Henderson

Committee or Council of Management -

D Jack, J Henderson, Neil Wilson

Ordinary Members (Regular) -

J D Fletcher, Donald Jack, D Mann, Neil Wilson, J Henderson, D Mackenzie, W Judge, W

Mackenzie, T Henderson, Alex Jack, W M Moir, W Shobbrock

Ordinary Members (Occasional) -

Hon. J B Lubbock, Rev J Gibson, John Munro, Geo. St. Quintin, A T Kent, William Nevett, Jas.

Thomson, George Down, W F Farrer

ROSS-SHIRE LADIES CURLING CLUB

2004

President - Mrs Heather Gill

Representative Members - Mrs Heather Gill, Mrs Mary Machin

Secretary - Mrs Mary Machin

Treasurer - Mrs Isobel Fleming

Match Secretary - Mrs Marian Burns

Ice Rink - Inverness

Honorary Members -

Mrs E Macgillivray, Mrs L Mackenzie, Mrs V Macpherson, Mrs H Munro, Mrs I Scott, Mrs M Stuart

Ordinary Members -

Mrs J Bridgeford, Mrs M Bruce, Mrs M Burns, Mrs G Cameron, Mrs A Drummond, Mrs S Dunn, Mrs I Fleming, Mrs F Fraser, Mrs E Gammie, Mrs H Gill, Mrs M Gordon, Mrs I Gordon, Mrs I Grigor, Mrs L. Low, Mrs R Macarthur, Mrs G McCall, Mrs M Machin, Mrs J Mackenzie, Mrs K Mackenzie, Mrs L Mackenzie, Mrs J Maxwell, Mrs B McCallum, Mrs R McCallum, Mrs K Munro, Mrs W Nicol, Mrs S Paterson, Mrs M Robertson, Mrs C Roscrow, Mrs J Thornton, Mrs H Vass

The inaugural meeting of the Ross-shire Ladies was held in the National Hotel, Dingwall, on Friday 5 April 1968.

Isobel Scott was elected President; Helen Munro, Vice-President; Margery MacIntyre, Secretary; Thelma Davidson, Match Secretary; and Margaret Smith, Treasurer. The other members of the committee were Elly MacGillivray, Jean McAllister, Isobel Bremner and Betty Morgan.

In all a total of thirty ladies attended, interested in forming a ladies' club. The club affiliated to the Royal Club in the following year, when Lady Stirling of Fairburn was invited to become Honorary President.

The early stages of the club are interesting because the minutes of meetings give considerable detail on all matters pertaining to the formation of an entirely new club - day and time of curling, arrangements for instruction, organisation of rinks, formation of a league, rules for substitution and, not surprisingly, the very important question of dress. Indeed, the deliberations on this matter took up several committee meetings. So far as can be ascertained, it was not a subject to appear in the records of male clubs at a similar stage of development. The ladies were also very much fussier about food arrangements for their various activities. The minutes of committee meetings often refer to the 'pleasant cup of tea' provided or to the 'delicious refreshments' - clear evidence, if any were needed, of the superior sensibilities of the fairer sex.

In their first curling season the club took part in the Open Bonspiel at Inverness Ice Rink, the Carmen Curlers' Rosebowl (finishing runners-up), the Ladies' Knockout, the Allangrange Quaich, the Locheye Outdoor Bonspiel (21 February 1969), and two friendly games with the Ice Rink Ladies - not a bad beginning. The first winner of the club points was Babs Ross, recipient of the new Rosebowl presented by Peter MacIntyre, Findon. The rink of Thelma Davison, Connie Morrison, Lyn Smart and Isabel MacDougall were the first winners of the silver salver presented by Tommy Scott.

An indication of how the value of 'the pound in our pocket' has declined is revealed by the price of the club's first curling brooms - a 34/6d. bargain from Helen Munro. Mention is also made in these minutes of the Dalziel trophy, played at Aviemore. This was a long-standing competition originally played at Perth and so popular that it took place over two days. It was one of the first Area 10 competitions. Known at first as the Highland Bonspiel, it was won on a number of occasions by Ross-shire teams, notably by the Fairburn club in 1954 and again at the ninth annual bonspiel by a Fairburn rink skipped by Major Sir John Stirling, KT. The Dalziel Trophy was gifted by Peter M Pottie, Easter Dalziel Farm, Petty. It has now been superseded by the MacGregor Kettle - can anyone explain why?

Ross-shire Ladies is now possibly the largest curling club in Ross-shire. Helen Munro is a Past President of the Province and as a skip has won many mixed and ladies' competitions. The standard of ladies' curling is second to none as many male teams have found to their cost. Once the ladies have found their 'weight', particularly on tricky ice, the usual heavyweight 'take out' game leads only to disaster whilst the ladies calmly keep drawing the shots. The continued success of the club is an indication of the health of Ross-shire curling

Inaugural Meeting - Friday 5 April 1968

The inaugural meeting of the club was held in the National Hotel, Dingwall, on Friday 5th April. It was attended by 30 ladies, all interested in forming a club of Ross-shire Ladies to play at the Inverness Ice Rink at present under construction.

A resolution was passed that a club should be formed. Mrs Davison had brought entry forms which those present completed for themselves and also for ladies who wished to join but were unable to be present.

The next business to be considered was the election of office bearers. Mrs Scott, Fearn, was unanimously voted President and took the chair. The other office bearers were elected as follows -

Vice-President - Mrs Helen Munro, Conon Bridge (proposed by Mrs Jean McAllister, Maryburgh, seconded by Miss Margaret Smith, Fortrose)

Secretary - Mrs Marjery Macintyre, Culbokie (proposed by Mrs Joan Macrae, Dingwall, seconded by Mrs Davison, Tain)

Match Secretary - Mrs Thelma Davison, Tain (proposed by Mrs MacDougall, Tain, seconded by Mrs Munro, Conon Bridge)

Treasurer - Miss Margaret Smith, Fortrose (proposed by Mrs MacGillivray, Nigg, seconded by Mrs MacPherson, Cromarty).

It was decided that the committee should consist of 9 ladies and the following were elected to the committee:

Mrs MacGillivray, Nigg; Mrs McAllister, Maryburgh; Mrs Bremner, Culbokie; Mrs Morgan, Dingwall

Discussion then followed on the amount to be fixed as Entrance Fee and Annual Subscription. Mrs Munro proposed an Entrance Fee of £1 and an Annual Subscription of £1. This was seconded by

Mrs Morgan and carried by the meeting. It was also agreed that it should be ascertained whether the club needed to carry an insurance policy.

The next item to be considered was the day of the week and the time of day most suitable for intending members to curl. On a show of hands it proved that though more ladies would have preferred morning ice, it was not possible for some ladies to curl at all in the mornings, whereas with the exception of 3 ladies all others present would be available for afternoon curling. It was therefore agreed to apply for ice for the 2 o'clock session on Thursday afternoons, also that application for affiliation to the RCCC be made on behalf of the newly formed club.

Discussion then followed on to Constitution of the Club and it was decided that it should be dealt with by the committee and the proposed constitution brought up for amendment and adoption at the next general meeting to be held in September.

It was also decided that membership of the club be restricted to 48 playing members and that if more applications were forthcoming names would be put on a waiting list. Those who wished to pay their subscriptions to the treasurer then did so and the meeting was adjourned.

Isobel M Scott

Friday 5 April 1968

A short committee meeting was held after the general meeting. Several constitutions were looked at and a constitution drawn up. It was agreed that a membership card be printed with the Club's constitution and the names and addresses of its members. Copies of "Curling Do's and Don'ts" were to be printed and sent out by the Treasurer with the subscription receipts. Mrs Morgan agreed to act as Press Secretary and to put a report of the meeting into the Ross-shire Journal. On Mrs Bremner's proposal it was agreed that the Secretary and Match Secretary should be paid their expenses. It was decided that the next committee meeting be held when all members had paid their subscriptions.

Isobel M Scott

21 May 1968

At a committee meeting held at Findon on 21 May the entire committee was present with the exception of Mrs Morgan who intimated her apologies.

The question of insurance was raised and it was decided that it was not necessary for the club to carry an insurance.

The meeting then voted the Treasurer and right to operate on the Club's bank account and the President and the Secretary signed the necessary forms.

The question of Reserve members then came up. It was decided not to have Reserve members but to inaugurate a waiting list for ladies wishing to join the club when a vacancy should occur. No subscription would be payable but they could be asked to substitute for club members if no other club member were available.

As to members who proved to be habitual non-curlers, it was decided that, as in many other clubs, in the second year they would be dropped from the league and in the third their subscription would not be renewable - this point to be brought up at the next General Meeting. Also at that meeting it was decided that RCCC films of instructional value to intending curlers be shown.

On Mrs Scott's suggestion the meeting agreed that Lady Stirling of Fairburn be asked to become Honorary President of the Club.

The next item to be considered was the membership card. It was agreed that it should include a copy of the Constitution, a list of Office Bearers and names, addresses and telephone numbers of Club members, and Club rules.

With regard to the formation of rinks it was decided that they would be run on a league basis, with 2 points for a win and one point for a draw. The list of members was consulted and 12 possible skips and No.3s drawn from it. It was emphasised that these positions were in no way permanent and that it was not a case of once a skip always a skip.

The question of uniform was considered and it was agreed unanimously that though it was desirable it certainly was not compulsory. Several suggestions as to colour were put forward and it appeared that the most popular choices were french navy skirt or trousers with 'v' neck pullover and jade green or, alternatively, crushed strawberry insert; black skirt or trousers with 'v' neck pullover and turquoise insert .

Several badges of other curling clubs were also looked at and ideas for our own badge put forward. Most popular seemed to be the idea of a pin in the shape of a curling broom or, alternatively, a curling stone with perhaps Ben Wyvis in the background. It was agreed that Mrs Davison should find out where the badges are made and their cost.

It was decided that both the question of uniform and badge be brought up at the next General Meeting, to be held, provisionally, on Tuesday 3 September in the National Hotel, Dingwall.

The meeting agreed that postcards with the Club's name be printed, 60 books of rules be ordered from the RCCC and at a later date that the Club should join the Ladies Branch of the RCCC. The meeting then adjourned.

Isobel M Scott

3 September 1968

At the General Meeting held in the National Hotel, Dingwall, on 3 September apologies for absence were received from the following ladies: Mrs Anne Morris, Mrs Helen Martin, Mrs Hannah Forsyth, Mrs Anna Macrae, Miss Dorothy Forbes, Mrs Jean Gordon, Mrs Hislop, Mrs May Munro, Mrs Rosemary Mackenzie, Mrs Astri Smith, Mrs Elspeth Anderson.

The main object of the meeting was to show members two curling films of instructional interest to inexperienced curlers. These were This Is Curling, from America, and the Scotch Cup In Vancouver 1966. At the conclusion of the films the President thanked the operator and on her suggestion a letter of thanks was sent to Col. Mackenzie for kindly lending his equipment.

The President then welcomed Lady Stirling as our Honorary President and thanked her for having so kindly accepted this office.

The Secretary then read the Constitution of the Club which was moved for adoption by Lady Stirling and seconded by Mrs Rutherford.

The minutes of the previous meeting were thereafter read and adopted.

Mrs Scott gave a general report on previous meetings, the main point being that three sheets of ice had been booked on Thursday afternoons at the 2.30 session. Mrs Davison, our match secretary, reported on the formation of the 12 rinks and explained that games would be played on a league basis, each rink meeting every other rink once during the season. It was decided to have a waiting list printed for convenience of club members. Lady Stirling enquired if it were possible for members to use their own curling stones and it was decided to enquire at the Ice Rink if this were possible.

Discussion then followed on the proposed uniform for the club. Votes were taken and the majority favoured french navy slacks with turquoise, the top cardigan. A vote was taken and on a show of hands the result was as follows - those in favour of suede, 13 votes; those in favour of wool, 14 votes.

The lambswool jumper was available to be purchased at the Cuchullin Handloom Co. and the turquoise pullover or cardigan type overgarment at Pringle's, Inverness. It was decided that Pringle be asked to make the overgarment long, with a raglan type sleeve and with pockets. In the case of both the jumper and overgarment, since most of the ladies in the club wished to have the uniform, a substantial discount was hoped for.

The visit of the French Curling Team to the Inverness Ice Rink on the 11th November and the Dinner Dance to be held on that evening in the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, was intimated to the members, and the fact that any of those wishing to attend might do so. It was also stated that two rinks had been entered for the Allangrange Trophy to be played at Inverness and that a notice should be posted in the Ice Rink for those wishing to take part in the Province Bonspiel to be played on Loch Aye (sic), weather permitting.

Mrs Morgan proposed a vote of thanks to our President, Mrs Scott, and the meeting then adjourned.

6 November 1968

A general meeting of the club was held in the National Hotel Dingwall on 6 November. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read the question of uniform was discussed. The alternative suggestions put to the meeting were - navy jumper to be worn under sleeveless jacket made of turquoise or suede or tweed or navy jumper under turquoise 'v' necked pullover or button type garment being of the cardigan type, or a 'v' necked pullover. Several badges were also looked at and it was decided to adopt a plain badge incorporating the turquoise shade of the uniform. Mrs Munro suggested that each member should wear a printed name badge and this was carried by the meeting.

As the club had been asked to enter a rink for the Bonspiel marking the opening of the new Ice Rink, it was considered fitting that this rink should be composed of our Honorary President,

President, Vice-President and Match Secretary. As Lady Stirling was unable to play, her place was taken by Mrs Ellie MacGillivray.

At the conclusion of the meeting Lady Stirling thanked the club for the honour they had done her in asking her to become Honorary President and complimented the President and Office Bearers on the way in which they had conducted business.

I M Scott

SENIOR CURLING

The Province began a Senior (over 55) curling league this year (1994), mainly by the efforts of Ian Morrison of the Caberfeidh club. Six teams regularly participate on Wednesday evenings on 5.30 ice. The season will end with a mini-bonspiel at Brora at the end of March. Perhaps next season a team will take part in the Senior tournament at Inverness Ice Centre for the Sinclair Salver. New members are welcome.

Rinks:

Ellie MacGillivray, Allan Maxwell, Liliack Mackenzie, Ritchie Wilkinson, Roderick Mackay, Eileen Gammie, Willie Dalgetty, Margaret Bruce

David Bruce, Joan Maxwell, Andrew Gammie, Betty Howell, Bill McBain, Helen Munro, Evan Jack, Gay McCall

Babs Ross, Hamish Sutherland, Betty McCutcheon, Alastair McCall, Eleanor Moodie, Ian Morrison, Rosemary McCallum, Eric Munro

Substitutes:

Gordon Bruce, Roderick Stirling, Rhoda Gordon, Vivien McPherson, Mhairi Robertson, Liz Barras, Flora Fraser, Alastair Butter

STRATHPEFFER

1904

Patron - Major Blunt, RA
Patroness - The Countess of Cromartie

President - William Gunn, Nutwood
Vice-President - A Bignold, Esq., of Lochrosque, MP
Representative Members - David Harrow, W F Gunn
Chaplains - Rev D Ferguson, Rev John C Nicholson
Treasurer - Colin Fraser
Secretary - Alex Cross
Committee or Council of Management -
David Smith, Andrew Lunn, Rev J C Nicolson, George Fraser, Dr E H Duncan, Roderick
Mackenzie, Dr Bruce, A D Whyte
Honorary Members -
John Stirling, T S McAlister, D Cameron, Major Stirling, K Cameron
Ordinary Members (Regular) -
Wm. Gunn, Robert Lunn, Dr E H Duncan, Captain Featherstonhaugh, W F Gunn, A Wallace, Dr W
Bruce, Colin Fraser, H Beaton, Andrew Lunn, Jas. Wallace, Peter McEwen, A Cross, George Fraser,
James Kemp, David Harrow, David Smith, Rodk. Mackenzie, Donald Forbes, David Ross, Rev Jn.
C Nicholson, A D Whyte, John Robertson, D MacLennan, George Smith, Don. Sinclair
Ordinary Members (Occasional) -
Sir A G R Mackenzie, J McMaster, John Ross, Rev D Ferguson, John Asher, John Mackenzie,
George Wotherspoon, T W Maxwell, A Prestwick, James McC. Duthie, W McDonald

2004

President - A Wallace
Representative Members - I Fleming, H Slater
Secretary - Mrs C York
Treasurer - Mrs I Fleming
Match Secretary - Mrs C York
Ice Rink - Inverness
Honorary Members -
J Cameron, S Mackenzie, Mrs M McKie
Junior under 18 years - Miss C Macdonald, Miss N Macdonald
Ordinary Members -
Mrs G Cameron, Mrs I Fleming, W Fleming, Mrs S Fleming, Mrs G Macdonald, Mrs E
McCutcheon, E Miles, Mrs H Robb, Mrs A Rose, N Roxburgh, Miss K Ruck, B Shanks, Mrs H
Slater, Miss V Spark, Mrs A Wallace, Mrs C York

The Strathpeffer Curling Club joined the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1885, the same year
that it was instituted.

Strathpeffer was represented at the inaugural meeting of the Ross-shire Curling Association on Wednesday 22 November 1893 by the Rev. Thompson, and the club was drawn against Dingwall in the first balloted competition. This match did not in fact take place because ice conditions proved unsuitable. However, in the second balloted matches drawn on the 7 November 1894, Strathpeffer put forward no less than five rinks, the largest entry in the Province. These matches were played at Muir of Ord on the 12 January 1895. The Strath rinks ended the day with an average of minus one point. In all, thirty-six rinks took part in this bonspiel, representing fourteen clubs. It must have been a brave sight on "good ice in the early part of the day, but a thaw latterly set in".

The 1903-04 RCCC Annual gives Major Blunt, RA, as Patron and the Countess of Cromartie as Patroness. The President was William Gunn of Nutwood and the Vice-President A Bignold, Esq. of Lochrosque, MP. Club Secretary was Alex Cross, Cromartie Buildings, Strathpeffer. The Chaplains were the Rev. D Ferguson and the Rev John C Nicholson. There was a considerable membership of twenty-six regular, eleven occasional and five honorary members. The latter included John Stirling and Major Stirling of Fairburn and a name which catches the eye, Captain Featherstonhaugh - does any reader recall this gentleman?

Angus Mackay, Strathpeffer, is mentioned in the Ross-shire Journal of October 1979 ('Forty-four Years Ago') as Vice-President of the Province in 1935. Presumably he was President the following year. Regrettably, no minute book survived from that period to confirm this. However, the first recorded minute of the 'new' Strathpeffer minutes, dated 7 February 1942, mentions "the absence of the Chairman, Mr Angus Mackay, through illness". The previous minutes had apparently departed with former Secretary and Treasurer, Mr E MacIver. Can they still be in existence?

W Smith was appointed Province President in 1959 and A C Robertson in 1965. The latter also took part in the first Grand Match held on Lake Menteith in 1963, the remainder of his rink comprising J Rose, Wm. Robertson and D M Scott. The most recent Province President was Sandy Porter, elected in 1972.

The Strathpeffer club has a long pedigree, especially in regard to outside curling. It is recorded (30 October 1908) that "as the site occupied by the former pond had been taken up by the Spa Syndicate, the club transferred their play to Elsick, where the pond had been put in good order and a new clubhouse built". The possibility of an artificial rink on the Pavilion Tennis Courts was first discussed in December 1956. After much deliberation and some procrastination, sufficient funds were raised to go ahead with this project in 1962. The new rink was officially opened on 15 January 1963 at a cost exceeding one thousand pounds. Indeed, the club was so vibrant at this stage than an embargo was considered on membership.

The following extract is taken from Glimpses of Gunn and is reproduced by permission of the authors - Ann Yule and the family of the late Allan Haldane:

Belle Maltman, VAD nurse

Another lady who had good cause to remember Neil* was a VAD nurse stationed at Elsick House, near Strathpeffer, in 1941; her name was Belle Maltman. Let Belle tell the story herself:

"There is a small pond about twenty yards from Elsick House and when it froze we were delighted and begged and borrowed skates which we used that night when we were off duty and though it was dark we enjoyed it and were returning to work next day when we met Neil Gunn. More in sorrow than in anger he pointed out, to our horror, that we had skated over and churned up the local Curling

Club's rink. He ... showed us how to throw a curling stone - I think to let us see how it bumped and went off course thanks to the damage we had done!"

On a happier note Belle adds that as a result of that unfortunate incident she became a keen curler herself, and recalls that Neil was "a perfect gentleman in complete control of his feelings, which must have been murderous."

* the author Neil M Gunn

YOUNG CURLERS

Curling has always been a "young man's game" but never more so than now. It is important therefore that the young lifeblood of the game should not be in danger of drying up.

All of the top teams in the Allan Moore 'A' League are products of an early introduction to the sport. Charlie Munro of Caberfeidh; Mike Wilson of Avoch; Ian, Lynn and Brenda Fraser; Kathleen and Norman MacIver; Calum MacRae; Coreen Munro; George and Michael Paul; Paul Moodie; David and Robert Lees; Robert Urquhart - all products of school curling. The encouragement of the Province, particularly that of Donald MacLean, senior and junior, has played an important part in this success story. The MacLean Trophy, played between Ross-shire schools, was a good introduction and produced many excellent games of high standard.

The Loch Ness Trophy, played at Aviemore, set an even higher standard. Originally a schools' competition, it was first won by a Fortrose Academy rink in the Sixties - Allan Taylor, Iain Mackay, Mike Paul and Graham MacLennan. Later the competition was extended to 'junior' curlers, i.e. under 25, and Ross-shire won it twice more, on each occasion with a 'composite' team drawn from a number of Ross-shire schools. On the first occasion our skip was Erica Munro assisted by Douglas Maxwell, Gordon Duff and Ewan Robertson.

The second time, two years later, involved only one change in this winning combination. Erica was off to university, Douglas became skip and a very youthful, very talented pupil moved in as lead - Colin Galbraith. In their first match they pulled off one of the upsets of the tournament by beating Alistair Scott from Aberfeldy by six shots to four. Scott at this time was regarded as one of the leading junior players in Scotland and was a former winner of the Scottish Schools' Competition. In the second match they thrashed Inverness Royal Academy sixteen shots to three, to emerge as bonspiel winners. Incidentally, this result is still incorrectly displayed on the Aviemore board.

Having tasted success at this level, naturally our youngsters have spread their wings still further, taking part in the International event held annually at the Inverness Ice Centre but not, it has to be said, with any major degree of success. It would require a major commitment, involving tournaments all over Scotland, to achieve this standard.

However, one of our number did reach the top in International circles. Colin Galbraith was a member of Allan Manuel rink which won the World Junior Curling Championship in Calgary in 1988. Sadly, Colin was killed in a motoring accident shortly after, a real tragedy for his family and for Northern curling. But his success must be an inspiration to all budding youngsters in Ross-shire because it demonstrates that the native talent is here. We only need the resources to make it a reality. Schools' curling has started again at Inverness with a series of coaching sessions which we hope will be extended in the 1994-95 season.