

Annual General Meeting of RCCC North East Area on 23rd April 2025

To be held in Forfar Ice Rink at 7.00pm

Agenda

1. Welcome from Area Rep Phillip Ross
2. Apologies -
3. Obituaries
4. Minutes of the previous AGM on 24th April 2024
5. Matters arising from these minutes.
6. Reports
 - North East Area Reps – Philip Ross, Alistair Crozier, Albert Middler
 - Secretary and Treasurer's report
 - Junior Curling: Aberdeen -Albert Middler
Forfar – Ian Taylor
Dundee – Andrew Skea
 - Development: – around the rinks
 - Aberdeen
 - Dundee
 - Forfar
7. Nominations
 - Area Rep - Philip Ross (2025) 1st term retiring – willing to re-stand
 - Area Rep - Albert Middler (2027) 2nd term
 - Area Rep- Alistair Crozier (2028) 1st term
 - Secretary / Treasurer Janice Walls (4 years served)
 - Vacancy nomination
8. A.O.C.B.
 - Proposals for changes to Area Competitions rules penalty points and scoring
 - Date of Next Year's AGM
 - Swiss Tour Report
 - Canadian Women's Friendship tour report
9. Presentation of Prizes for season 2023-2024

INDOOR BONSPIEL N&S Esk Province -

Fettercairn CC -Liz Carnie, Fiona Carnegie, Rodney Harrison Carnegie, Gus Harvey

GRANT TROPHY Angus Province

Suttieside CC – Ian Young, Ian Taylor, Jenny McGlynn, J. Brown

CRICHTON TANKARD

Forfar 2 – K. Gibbs, I. Gibbs, S. Thomson, J. Gibbs

INTER PROVINCE COMPETITION Angus Province

ROY GRAY TROPHY Angus Lindsay, (FYC), Frazer Lindsay(FYC) and Joe Lindsay (FYC)

Royal Caledonian Curling Club
Minute of North East Area Annual General Meeting
Held at Forfar Indoor Sports,
Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Philip Ross opened the meeting and thanked everyone for taking the time to come along.

Attendance:

18 members attended the AGM noted below:

Philip Ross (RCCC Area Rep) (RCCC Area Rep), Albert Middler (RCCC Area Rep), Pete Walls (Fettercairn), Alistair Crozier (Pitkerro), Janice Walls (Fettercairn/Dalhousie), George Paterson (Forfar), Wendy Loudon (Edzell/ Forfar Ladies), Alistair Scott (Broughty Ferry) Andrew Walker (Broughty Ferry), Tom Kirk (University of Dundee), Dave Smith (Lundie & Auchterhouse), Marianne Jenkins (Suttieside / Angus province), Brian McArtney (Letham Grange), Liz Carnie (Fettercairn/Dun), Tracey Collie (Edzell / N&S Esk Province)

Dougie McMurray (Fettercairn), Jim Gibb (Forfar), Keith Gibb (Forfar),

Apologies:

Lorraine Cambell (Dun CC), Ian Taylor (FYC/Suttieside), Peter Cargill (Evenie Water), Douglas Sparks (Brechtin Castle), Jill Donald (Fotheringham), Lillian Carnegie (Forfar Ladies), Andrew Skea (Dundee), Sam Lynch (Curl Aberdeen Juniors).

Obituaries:

Gordon Law (Letham Grange), Ian Steven (Broughty Ferry CC), Bill Main (University of Dundee CC), David Robinson (University of Dundee)

Minute of AGM held on 24th April 2024:

Minute proposed by Alistair Scott and seconded by Wendy Loudon.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from these minutes.

North East Area 12 Report Curl Forfar – Philip Ross

ASC & SC

I attended ASC and joint ASC/LSC meetings in Perth, Stirling, and on Zoom and attended various management committee meetings. There is a new online reporting system (Google Forms) for the ASC where we report activity, competitions, or other concerns for discussion. This has worked well and allows the group to see the raw reports in one place and may potentially be used by the LSC if they so choose. The minutes do not appear on the SC website (yet). At the most recent joint LSC/ASC meeting the lack of minutes was noted by SC and this should be addressed. It was also noted that having put in a lot of effort with the “digital presence” that tackling the SC website is high on the agenda as it is disliked, shall we say, by many.

The “Four Bullet Friday” communication has been generally well liked, but it was noted that some people have thought Your Curler has been replaced by it. Your Curler is still available monthly, is easily accessed from the Clubs & Members menu on the SC website and articles can still be submitted as before.

SC Curling strategy - This is called Sweeping Change: The future of curling. It is for 2023 - 2027 and the vision is available on the SC website as a downloadable PDF. The SC mission is "Enabling fun, social and engaging curling experiences for everyone." The plan is to have 12,000 members by 2027 - the current membership on the RCCC members site lists 8861, so there is a high priority to attract new members. Hopefully with the recent good results and the Mens World championships and the upcoming winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina there is an opportunity to promote the sport to a wider demographic.

For some time, there has been a review process on how engagement with Scottish Curling be improved.

The working group looking into this has noted that reform is needed:

- Too many layers
- Differences across centres
- Difficulties getting volunteers

Having a focus on representation that is visible, has clear roles, and is easy to understand is the direction of travel. The plan is to have the next year as a transition year but whether there are any proposals introduced at this year's RCCC AGM or whether it is next year is still being considered, pending feedback from the current working group.

For some time there has been a review process on how engagement with Scottish Curling be improved. There is a working group looking into this and have yet to decide if there will be any proposals at this year's RCCC AGM or whether it is deferred to next year.

Club accreditation scheme - Scottish curling have been running a Club Accreditation scheme trial. This has been prompted and encouraged by Scottish Sport with a good selection of curling clubs across Scotland taking part in the trial. The current scheme has been tackled enthusiastically by clubs in the trial but have found the task very "document heavy". This has led to many of the trial clubs discovering their documentation was lacking or very out of date. A constitution still dated 1855 was perhaps an exception but definitely a case of "the exception that proves the rule" - or at least the need to go through and update information. Over the summer, having listened to a lot of feedback, there is a lot of work going on to simplify the process before rolling it out to all clubs.

AGMs

Royal Caledonian Curling Club AGM - The Annual General Meeting of the RCCC will be held on Saturday 28 June 2025 at 2pm at Inverness Ice Rink.

Board Director Nominations Update 2025 – SC received one nomination for the two available Director positions on the board. The nominated candidate is Wendy Loudon. As Wendy is the sole nominee, she will be appointed to the board uncontested.

The Agenda and Annual Report will be issued in June. The Annual Accounts will be issued in June. The 2024 AGM Minute will be ratified at the AGM. There may be some other resolutions yet to be announced.

Ladies Branch AGM - The 65th Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club will be held on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at Woodland House Hotel, Newbridge, Dumfries DG2 0HZ at 2pm.

Agenda available late April. 2024 LB AGM minute to be ratified and the AGM.

Area Management & Area Competitions

The core purpose of the Area Management committee is to carry out the competition draws and help with communications in the Area. This was particularly helpful this year with the incoming Swiss Tour (see separate report).

Area Website - The area website <https://northeastarea.curling.org> has been used this year for the competition rules, draws and results. And a big thank you to Andrew Skea for providing the hosting.

The competitions section has a brief description of each of the four area completions, Crichton Tankard, Indoor Bonspiel, Grant Trophy, and the Inter Province Competition.

The latest information and full details including the results are updated throughout the season and available for download.

A big thank you to all clubs for doing a great job in keeping the RCCC members database up to date as possible. We didn't have any disqualifications or penalties due to unregistered players.

Competition results

- Indoor Bonspiel 10th Nov 2024 - Winning Province N & S Esk, winning club Fettercairn CC
- Grant Trophy 2nd Feb 2025 - Winning Province Angus Province, winning club Suttieside CC
- Crichton Tankard October to March - Forfar 2
- Inter Province Competition 9th February - Angus Province
- Roy Gray trophy - Angus Lindsay, Fraser Lindsay, Joe Lindsay

Other matches/competitions

- Indoor Grand Match - 15th November 2025. Forfar is signed up to be a hosting rink. Applications to play in the grand match is in the normal manner through the SC competitions section of the website – entries are club teams so it will be club match secretaries that will normally make submissions.
- Scottish seniors' ladies champions - Jackie Lockhart's team (with Mairi Milne LGCC) Scottish seniors men's champions – Team Brewster
- Tom Brewster is the senior ice manager at Milan-Cortina winter Olympics and has also been approached by the French winter Olympics organisers for 2030 to manage their ice.
- European Curling Championships 2024 - Bronze for Skip Sophie Jackson with vice skip Rebecca Morrison.
- Swiss tour – see separate report

Tours

- 2025 Scottish Women's Tour to Canada (November 2025)
- 2026 USA Women's Tour to Scotland (unconfirmed)
- **Scottish curling** - The post of Development Manager | North and East Scotland is Faye McInnes covering C/Ab, DIA, FIS, Inverness and Elgin.
- The Dundee development group are more active and managing the ice rink schedule, competitions, and coaching.

Nominations to Area Committee

- Area Rep – Albert Middler remains in post, Philip Ross to be nominated for 2nd term, Alistair Crozier remains in post. Secretary / Treasurer – Janice Walls remains in post for 1 year

Development

Try Curling – there were 4 sessions (before new year), 2 sessions (after new year)

Curl Forfar promotes it's Try Curling/Beginners sessions via its social media platforms.

Beginners – there were 3 sessions which took place at 16:30 on Sun 17/11, 24/11, 15/12.

Curling's cool – had 18 sessions with 60 participants from 8 schools

Gateway – 2 new member

Coaches – 15 level1, 2 trainee level 1, 5 level 2

In addition there is Monday morning coaching, Corporate sessions. And club coaching sessions.

FYC ran technical sessions throughout the year. Many schools ran "New Age Kurling" with an annual festival of 20 teams supported by coaches and young volunteers.

The year has as usual been busy with clubs taking up the rinks offer of a free coaching session. Thank you to Lorraine and Brian for organising coaches who facilitated the sessions this season and for their patience keeping up to date with accreditation and other paperwork. Enjoy the summer break and we look forward to starting again next year.

North East Area 12 Report Curl Aberdeen - Albert Middler

Curl Aberdeen opened for the curling season on 30th September 2024 for 10 days of club curling before a 10-day break for the World Mixed Curling Championships. A great event with 39 Countries taking part. With 4 session days it was a long hard week for the staff and volunteers. Club Curling resumed again on Sunday 20th October but there was another break in club curling for the Scottish Junior Curling Championships 11th – 17th November. The 2024 Canadian Women's Tour arrive in Curl Aberdeen on Monday 18th November for 1 game before moving on. Aberdeen Ladies had this well in

hand and with the help of some fund raising, treated the visitors to a great event. Club Curling resumed on the evening of the 18th November and we had a month of curling before another break this time for the Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles Championships, 18th – 22nd December.

Curl Aberdeen opened its doors on 4 January 2005; on 18th January we held a 20th year anniversary bonspiel. 24 teams took part in a full day of curling and socialising, more socialising than curling but a great day. This is to be followed up with an anniversary dinner in the Chester Hotel on Friday 13th June. Guest speakers will include World Champion Bruce Mouat. Tickets are still available.

January 2025 saw the arrival of the Swiss Men's Tour playing in Curl Aberdeen on Wednesday 22 January for 1 session playing 5 teams. The day's events were as follows.

Arrive Curl Aberdeen mid-afternoon for tea/coffee cake and biscuits

5 games curling

Check into Crowne Plaza Hotel

Dinner in Crowne Plaza for all players Swiss and Aberdeen, to be paid by a sponsor.

Thursday 23rd, depart hotel after breakfast for journey to Forfar Curling Club with a visit to the Signal Tower Museum in Arbroath on-route.

I should report that the Aberdeen curlers were very generous and allowed the Swiss men to win, their only win in Scotland.

A return to normal club and ice rink competitive until the middle of February for a weekend of Asham Under 21 Slam event and the Middle of March for the Aberdeen International weekend. Here we saw a strong field of 15 teams with Scottish, European and Pan Pacific champions playing. Winner from Scotland was team Bryce including local curler Duncan Menzies.

Our season basically finished on the weekend of Saturday 29th March with a closing bonspiel and some Super League games being played on Monday 31st.

As far as the North Eastern Province is concerned, we have a dramatic fall in participation in Province competitions to such an extent there were only 7 clubs entered the qualifier for the National Province Championships, won for the 2nd year by Meldrum and Daviot CC. Only 3 clubs entered the only other Province competition that went ahead this season. No Province League and no Double Team competitions went ahead.

We also had a poor showing at the Area competitions with 1 team AWW, in the Area Bonspiel, 2 teams, AWW and Banchory in the Grant Trophy and only 1 team in the Inter Province Competition – primarily due to the Province match secretary relying on group emails to find curlers to take part and their reluctance to travel to Forfar due to previously have to pay non-members ice rates – which is no longer the case.

Albert made also comment of the lack of support from the clubs for the North Eastern Province competitions. He also said that he would make sure there were 3 teams for the Inter Province Competition next season.

Development

Curl Aberdeen have had another reasonably successful season with 4 x 1hour sessions per month of Try Curling sessions.

We had 5 x 4 week blocks of Beginners sessions each session being 2 hours, and there were less than normal Curling's Cool sessions due to transport costs, however - there were more senior School sessions this season.

Curl Aberdeen had their normal 3 or 4 per month corporate, scout and family etc type group sessions and for next season we are re-instating the Development Group and instating a Gateway Club.

North East Area 12 Report Alistair Crozier (Curl Dundee)

The Dundee Curling Development Group have been organising the curling, competitions, coaching, training and associated activities at Dundee Ice Area for the last year (2024/25). At their AGM on 17th April 2025 the proposed amendments to their constitution were adopted and so the group is now called Curl Dundee.

Compared to the previous season there has been a 32% increase in evening ice required with 92% evening ice utilisation over a longer season than the previous year (22 weeks compared to 16 weeks). The free pre-season ice / training was particularly popular with excellent feedback received from curlers. The plan is to build in this success for next year – over 40 curlers participated this year.

A new website is getting developed – www.curl-dundee.org.uk and will be up and running for next season.

Try curling / coaching

There were 12 try curling sessions over the season with a total of 76 attendees plus 10 outreach try curling sessions (off ice / floor curling sessions) with 118 participants.

These were followed up with 3 beginners courses (each consisting of 4 on ice sessions) which were attended by 24 curlers, 10 improvers courses (with 51 participants) and 11 skill development sessions attended by 84 curlers.

This translated into a health number of new curlers – of the 76 try curlers, 24 attended the beginners course, of which, 18 joined the gateway club.

These sessions were all delivered by volunteer coaches and in order to build upon this an appeal for more coaches was made at the meeting along with an undertaking to investigate the potential to have a paid coach to deliver some of these sessions and grow the offering by Curl Dundee. A few cooperate inquiries were made this year but no sessions have been undertaken yet – the hope is that these will run next year and the 'Olympic bounce' will help increase participation in curling at Dundee.

A link up with D&A College was also developed this year with outreach try curling sessions attended by 15 school staff and 32 pupils. The hope is that this will grow into a partnership for next year (there are 11,000 students and 900 staff at the college). A floor curling championship involving 150 students was held in March at D&A College which was very well received.

5 Kings Park School pupils, 15 wheelchairs & visual / hearing impaired participants and a visit from 16 cubs rounded off a very busy year for the volunteer coaches at Dundee – A big thank you was given to everyone who helped make this a very successful year.

Treasurer's report

Dundee City Council wanted £35,000 income in year from curling, this was exceeded (final figures are still to be confirmed but ~£37K is the estimate), the council feedback has been positive and supportive. Details for next year will be finalised over the summer.

The group has a health excess and so are planning to spend this on more on equipment and coaches / coaching support.

Competitions

DIA Opening Bonspiel – winner not announced at AGM

DIA Closing Bonspiel – winner David McQueen's team

Most Promising New Curler was won by Dom Vetrriano

Junior Individual Achievement Award was won by Woody Bate

Junior Team Shield was won by Morag's team

Ladies Open was won by Susan Smith's team

Henderson Bishop Qualifier was won by Sheilagh Macfarlane's team

Ladies Pairs was won by Janine Wilson & Susan Smith

Mixed Pairs was won by John & Sheilagh Macfarlane
Phin League was won by Lundie & Auchterhouse CC
Thornton League was won by John Macfarlane's team
Bruce Trophy was won by Sheilagh Macfarlane's team
Panmure Pairs was won by Gerry & Rachel Grant
Senior League was won by Lundie & Auchterhouse CC
Senior Knock-out was won by Panmure CC

Form for entries for the 2025/26 session are going out soon via club future secretaries - entries are needed by the end of May so that ice allocations can be organised.

Any queries can be directed via the new website or the chair of Curl Dundee, Ken Lan

Alistair also mention the Dundee had exceeded their expectations for Income this season

Area Secretary's report: Janice Walls

Janice thanked Philip, Albert and Alistair for their continued support, the Province secretaries for passing on information etc to clubs and the members of Area Management Committee.

The management committee has been very useful again this season there were 2 meetings over the season. The first was to draw the competitions at Forfar Rugby Club in August, we also discussed the Incoming Swiss Tour to Curl Aberdeen and Forfar indoor Sports. We had feedback from around the Provinces and a discussion about the imbalance of the Crichton regarding too many byes in the Dundee/Forfar section and the N&S Esk /N Eastern section going straight to Semi-finals. Which we will discuss later on in AOCB .

The second was held at Forfar Indoor Sports in March prior to the AGM. We reviewed the Area Financial situation which I'll expand on this in my Treasurers report. Alistair Crozier and Albert Middler gave reports on the Swiss Tour, and we had feedback from around the Provinces, noting that North Eastern Province are having great difficulties getting clubs to enter their own Province and Area Competitions. Angus were also having difficulties with communication from clubs for competitions.

Crichton Tankard

We had 16 entries which was 2 down on last year. N&S Esk had 3 entries and North Eastern Province only had 1 entry. Angus and Dundee and District both had 6 teams. The subs rule implemented for this season worked well and the competition progressed with no regulation issues.

Indoor Bonspiel

We had 16 teams enter which is the same as last year. Broughty Ferry pulled out with enough time to ask Forfar Gateway to fill the gap – many thanks to the Gateway Club yet again. On the day, everyone turned up and there were no issues.

Grant Trophy

We also had 16 teams enter this season. The Competition went well with no issues, the changes to the rules and scoring worked very well. Thank you for your continued support.

Inter Province Competition

This is the 7th time we've run this competition and again as happened last year, we had 3 Provinces with 3 teams and North Eastern fielding 1 team due lack of interest from North Eastern Curlers. On the day N&S Esk's team 2 played 3 handed and had 3 points deducted from their score as per rule 4, and Dundee 3 Forfeited their game following a disagreement.

Feedback has been that there were difficulties getting Juniors to play even although we had checked that there weren't any slams that day and generally there were also problems getting curlers.

There were complaints about an imbalance of the team draws and 2 North Eastern teams withdrew 2 days before the competition.

It has also been pointed out that there is a huge imbalance with scoring when there is an imbalance in team entries. The 3-team rule regarding scoring averages doesn't resolve this issue. There will be a discussion about these issues in AOCB.

Finally, a great big thankyou to all clubs for your continued support.

Treasurer's report

This season, the online banking account has worked very well, however, since March the Bank of Scotland has moved us to a community account and begun applying a monthly Service Charge of £4.25. We have the first 100 electronic transactions free but manual transactions such as deposits and withdrawals of cash and cheques now carry additional fees. I have researched online, and it looks like the only Bank that doesn't charge for the type of account we need is Virgin as long as we have under 10 transactions in a month. Is it ok with the floor if I go ahead and change over the accounts?

As we have had the Swiss Tour visit us this season, I've split the Area and Tour finances for clarity, I'll start with the Area.

You'll see the bank balance still looks reasonable. Last year's Trophy engraving, and prizes, the gifts presented to Callie Souter and Ethan Brewster for winning Mixed Doubles Gold at the Junior Winter Olympics and the first Bank Service Charge are reflected in the statement. I Forgot to advise the Crichton teams that the Area pays for the Final Ice Fees so that's still due to be paid to them and will be reflected in next year's audit.

We have received in full, Competition Entry fees from all 4 Provinces - Thank you for that, although some payments were a bit slow in coming in this season due to various reasons.

Income generated for the year was £616, of which £136 is reimbursement for cancelled Inter Province Ice fees paid by the Area. Competition entries were down by 2 teams generating £480 - £20 less than last year resulting in a total balance of £828.47 for the year. We've managed to end the year with a surplus of £86.76 mainly due to not providing refreshments the for the AGM this year and cutting down on the costs of gifts to our Gold winners.

As in recent years the Inter Province Prize is not hitting the bank. Hayden Thomas is presenting the £100 in cash to the winning Province directly. Thanks to Hayden For continuing to sponsor this competition.

A breakdown of this year's competition entries and fees are below:

2024-25 entries

	Crichton	Grant	Indoor Bonspiel	Revenue
DD (15)	6	4	5	£150
A (14)	6	4	4	£140
N&S E (14)	3	6	5	£140
NE (5)	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>£ 50</u>
	16	16	16	£480

Now to the Swiss Tour which is fairly straight forward – you can see the Swiss contribution and the all the provinces Contributions which resulted in an income of £2,238.00. The total Invoice from the FIS was £2,008.95. This left a surplus of £229.05 which should have been returned to the Swiss; however, we were informed that it had been written off as they had already audited their accounts.

Following a discussion with the Province reps at the March Area Management meeting it was decided to donate these monies to the Area, which was very generous, meaning we go forward with a healthy Closing Balance of £1,057.52 increasing our Surplus to £315.81 pence. Which is great considering that last year we had a deficit of £375.15 last year.

In the balance sheet I've included items to be paid prior to the start of the new season- which is The Crichton Final Ice to the clubs, Tannadice Trophies, AGM room Hire and the April bank charges.

We go forward with £548.59, which is a comfortable position that allows payment of cancelled ice, if need be, until the Levies are received from the provinces.

The late levy payments meant we would have struggled to pay cancelled ice if we hadn't had the tour money sitting in the account, and the boost from the tour surplus has certainly made a huge difference.

9

Returning to commitment, Mark Lyon spent a week in Sweden as a coach at a Junior training camp and what can I say about Ethan Brewster. Played most under 17 and all under 21 slams and having been selected with playing partner Callie Soutar from Forfar to represent Great Britain at Winter Youth Olympics 2024 in Gangneung, South Korea, winning the Gold Medal, was this year was voted Young Male Athlete of the year at Aberdeenshire Sports Awards. He spent his Easter holidays in Corona working with the ice crew at the World Junior Championships.

I cannot finish this report without mentioning our member Sam Lynch who unfortunately took his own life prior to the start of the season. A young man who achieved more in 18 years than most of do in a lifetime. A dedicated curler who also played rugby for his school, was a 1st Dan in Martial Arts and was elected as a Scottish Shogun. He was about to achieve a life's ambition having been accepted into university to study to become a Vet. Sadly, a reminder to everyone, that not all is always as it appears and that we need to share problems even if it is with just one person, friend, stranger or professional. Finally our thanks to our coaches, Albert Middler, Kyle McLain and Academy Coaches Dillan Perras and Kay Gibb.

Dundee Junior Curling Club: Andrew Skea

Membership

Membership at year end is c17 with average weekly attendance around 10. This is similar to last year but significantly reduced from the c50 reported in 2019 and 35 reported in 2020. There has been no recruitment this season so have no new members.

Coaching

Our usual coaching session has moved to 4:30-5:45pm on Tuesdays in Dundee Ice Arena. The main reasons for the switch to Tuesday are: maybe slightly better ice and hopefully fewer clashes with other after school activities.

Thank you to our regular coaches, Drew Moyes and Alasdair Macleod. Also to Andrew Skea for coordination and admin. Our coaching pool is depleted, and lack of coaches restricts our ability to add to numbers of juniors. Please contact Andrew Skea.

External Games and Competitions

In the 2024/25 season our members played most Dundee Ice Arena bonspiels and Tennent Caledonian Bonspiel Trophy. We had one team in Dundee Phin League finishing in respectable mid table. We did not enter our own teams in National U14 or U17 this year though some curlers participated with friends from Forfar. Younger members participated in U12 competitions -winning the Forfar U12 and coming second in Stirling U12.

We support school teams and currently have one High School of Dundee team.

Finances

The club has reasonable cash reserves and a good stock of rental shoes.

To grow numbers, we do need more coaches and adults keen to help recruit in local schools. Help with admin is also sought. We look forward to next season.

Forfar Young Curlers: Ian Taylor

The club continues to attract good numbers with membership remaining in the low 50's. On average over 26 curlers attend our Saturday morning coaching in sessions. The figure would be higher, but we experience a sharp fall in numbers coming to coaching when slam completions and schools' competitions are taking place.

FYC's support Ice Rink competitions by entering teams in all the Bonspiels, Agricar League, Callander Trophy, Peter Pan. We also play our own internal leagues helping to develop the athletes' curling skills and tactical awareness.

This year we have been working on the new Skill Awards introduced by Scottish Curling a few years back. 6 of our youngest curlers have managed to attain the FUNdamental level and 10 curlers have attained the

Discovery level certificate. 8 others are working hard on the Advanced level and should be completing this level early next season.

At a national level club members continue to compete in junior competitions both individually and in FYC teams. Forfar always have a good representation at all the Asham U14, U17 & U21 Slam and other national events. Notable achievements this season were.

- Callie Soutar's and her team won the Scottish Junior Women in Aberdeen and went on to represent Scotland in the World B finals in Finland. Callie put on a great performance at the World B finals, finishing in 4th place overall and only narrowly missing out on qualifying Scotland for the A finals in Italy.
- Morag Skea and Rachel Grant playing with 2 Aberdeen curlers in the Under 14 slams. Morag's team won the overall slam event, winning the highroad in Kinross and were placed 2nd or 3rd in the other 3 events.

As always, I'd like to thank the Coaches & Helpers that give up their free time to make the club such a success and also pay tribute to the wonderful facilities we are offered by Forfar Indoor Sports.

Nominations:

Area Rep – Philip Ross (2025) 1st term retiring- willing to re-stand
Area Rep - Albert Middler - (2027) 2nd term
Area Rep - Alistair Crozier – (2028) 1st term
Secretary / Treasurer - Janice Walls (4 years served)

Vacancy nomination is Philip Ross, as there were no other nominations there was no need for a vote and Philip will continue for a 2nd term which was proposed by Brian McArtney and Seconded by Alistair Scott

The Area Representatives now stand as below for 2025/26.

Area Rep - Albert Middler -(Competitions secretary) (2027) 2nd term
Area Rep – Alistair Crosier (2028) 1st term
Area Rep - Philip Ross (2025) 2nd term
Secretary / Treasurer - Janice Walls (4 years served)

AOCB

- a) **Inter Province** – Following the issues experienced at this year's competition of, difficulties again getting Juniors to play, Clash between a Dundee Skip and a Junior, generally getting curlers to play, an imbalance of team draws and withdrawal of 2 teams from the competition 2 days before the competition. The Provinces were asked if they wanted to keep the competition and would they commit to supporting it. Following a lengthy discussion regarding all of the above it was agreed that the competition would continue to run. Janice will put out the entry forms earlier to give secretaries more time to assemble the teams

We also discussed the 3-team rule regarding scoring averages should be added to the Inter Province Rules to keep it in line with the other Area Competitions. – This was discussed, and all agreed it wouldn't work for this competition as it would cause more of an imbalance. It was decided that we should reduce teams to 2 from each Province if there are not enough entries

- b) **Crichton Proposal** – A question was raised about there only being one Curl Aberdeen club taking part in the North Section of the Crichton and three from N & S Esk with strong feelings about having to travel to Aberdeen to be playing against other teams based in Forfar. The suggestion would be to play the First round in Aberdeen and then hold later rounds in Forfar – this already happens with Dundee.

Following discussion, it was proposed that the Provinces should hold local qualifiers and each put one team forward to a semi-final with the winners going on to a final at a later date. Following a comprehensive discussion there were no objection to the proposal and the management committee will look at the rules and amend accordingly at the next meeting.

c) **Swiss Tour report by Brian McArtney**

At an Area Management meeting before the start of last season I met with the Provinces in the Area to discuss the incoming Swiss Tour in January 2025. North East Province were hosting the Swiss as well as playing them and Albert would coordinate this side the Province.

Angus, Dundee and North & South Esk Provinces would make up four teams to play the Swiss in Forfar with each Province agreeing to make a £50 per person contribution towards the cost of providing lunch, games at FIS and a Dinner before the tourists headed off to Edinburgh for their nights' accommodation.

Each player also contributed towards the cost as well as providing drinks for the tourists throughout the day. Provinces collected the monies and coordinated with the Area Secretary who paid the eventual bill to the rink for Lunch, ice and Dinner.

While the formal side was organised and supported by the Provinces there is also the soft side of any Tour where the tourists are given an insight into the local area they are visiting. We decided to take them down the coast road where they could stop for pictures along the rugged coastline of Aberdeenshire and Angus ending up in Arbroath.

In Arbroath I met them with Alasdair and my wife Jane at the Signal Tower Museum where they learned about the fishing industry including the making and tasting of Smokies. They received information about the building of the Bell Rock lighthouse and how it communicated with the mainland and the Signal Tower.

Next was a trip to Carnoustie Golf Links for coffee and shortbread with an opportunity for the golfers amongst the tourists to get photographs of the 18th green, burn and a replica of THE OPEN championship Claret Jug.

Then it was off to be greeted by the curlers in Forfar.

Angus, Dundee and North & South Esk each had a team made entirely from their Province and the fourth team was a combined one from each Province. Three teams won their games with one loss but in the overall count Forfar curlers ended with a good positive score adding to the overall win for the Scots over the Swiss.

The day after they visited Forfar their games were cancelled due to bad weather causing dangerous road conditions across Scotland.

Can I express my thanks to:- all the Province and Area officials who helped make it happen; to Mike, Sandra and all the helpers behind the bar for providing the food and service for Lunch and Dinner; the icemen who produced wonderful ice; the couriers who travelled with the tourists and most importantly the curlers from all the local Provinces who turned out to play and host our guests.

d) Canada to Scotland Women's Tour

We began planning well in advance and teamed up with Dundee Ladies Centre. Initially, Dundee had planned to field three teams, but as a new Ladies Centre, they faced insufficient funds and had to reduce their teams to one. Fortunately, Forfar Ladies Centre had ample reserves, attracting curlers to play and having a well-stocked Tour Fund. This allowed us to support the costs for our curlers and subsidize the Dundee curlers. Dundee managed to secure some funding, enabling them to make a pro-rata contribution for the remaining costs.

We set up a WhatsApp group, which proved to be invaluable for sharing progress and asking questions, especially as the day of the event drew closer.

On the day of the tourists' visit, everything went smoothly. The curling was both friendly and competitive, though the tourists had the upper hand throughout the day, ultimately securing the overall win. It was evident that they enjoyed themselves both on and off the ice. The visits to Glamis Castle were a particular highlight, and the tourists especially enjoyed trying out carpet bowls in a party atmosphere, with Mike Ferguson leading the activities.

Having the morning and afternoon curlers enjoying lunch with the tourists proved to be a great success, with a lovely variety of sandwiches and soups available and Sandra made sure that the people with dietary requirements were identified

Sandra and her team provided an amazing dinner menu, and all the feedback I received was very positive. Invited guests to the top table were Cathy Hughes, Kate Caithness and Mike Ferguson, with Kate giving us a very humorous after dinner address – which was very well received. Cathy gave her thankyou address acknowledging the exceptional hospitality and effort put forward by the Forfar Ladies Centre, Dundee Ladies Centre and Forfar Indoor Sports. A special presentation from Forfar Ladies Centre was made to our Piper – Jim Menzies who has supported numerous Incoming Tours over the years and this was warmly received by all.

While there were a few minor issues to address on the day, they did not detract from the overall experience, and everyone had a fantastic time.

Mike and Sandra Ferguson offered great support and advice throughout the event.

e) Tom Kirk requested that we avoid Remembrance Sunday for the Indoor Bonspiels for the future as happened this season.

f) Date of Next Years AGM will be held on Wed 22nd April 2026 at Forfar Ice Centre

Meeting Closed at 20.50pm.

North East Area Presentation of Prizes 2025



INDOOR BONSPIEL

N&S Esk Province

Fettercairn CC – L. Carnie, F. Carnegie,

R. Harrison Carnegie, G. Harvey

GRANT TROPHY

Angus Province

Suttieside CC

I. Young, I. Taylor J. McGlynn, J. Brown



CRICHTON TANKARD

Forfar 2

K. Gibbs, I. Gibbs,

S. Thomson, J. Gibbs



INTER PROVINCE COMPETITION

Angus Province

Prize presented to

Marrianne Jenkins

Sponsored by Hayden Thomas



ROY GRAY TROPHY Angus Province Junior Winners

Angus Lindsay (FYC), Frazer Lindsay (FYC), and Joe Lindsay (FYC)

Received by Marrianne Jenkins

