HAMILTON ICE RINK

50th Anniversary Gala Dinner



SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER, 2017 RADSTONE HOTEL



WELCOME

Over 50 years ago Tom Dickson and his fellow directors put in hand plans to build an ice rink on a site within the Palace Grounds. Funding for the project was raised locally, mainly from curlers, and their vision became reality when the first curling stone was delivered by Bill Robertson-Aikman on 29th September 1967. The quality of the build was such that, 50 years later, Hamilton Ice Rink is widely regarded as one of the finest curling facilities in the country.



In recognition of this milestone, a 50th

Anniversary Bonspiel and lunch was held on 16th September, when guests were able to meet up, enjoy hospitality, reminisce and share past memories. The support for this evening's celebration dinner has been truly overwhelming and is testament to the fellowship among curlers. Enjoy your evening and let us look forward to many more years of curling at Hamilton.

Jimmy Raeburn Chairman It all started back in 1965 when Tom Dickson and a few others toured Canada and saw how curling rinks were set up there. They returned with a vision to build an ice rink in Hamilton.

Prior to Lanarkshire Ice Rink being built 50 years ago Lanarkshire curlers had to travel to Crossmyloof in Glasgow or Haymarket in Edinburgh. No mean feat in those days when the motorway was in its early days. In many ways it showed the determination and enthusiasm for their sport of those Lanarkshire curlers.

After negotiations with Hamilton Town Council a site was agreed in Low Parks Hamilton: It was not to be exclusively used for Hamilton curlers but was for all of Lanarkshire. Work was now needed to raise the capital of £140,000. The decision was taken to offer 560 shares at a price of £250 each and a Shareholder Club was to be formed with a dedicated night for them to curl.



On the 25th November 1965 Lanarkshire Ice Rink Ltd was formed. Discussions took place as to the type of building to be erected the original intention had been to build a 6 sheet curling rink and an additional 6 sheet rink for both curling and skating. Tom Dickson and the architect travelled to Canada and visited 27 ice rinks gathering information and ideas which helped form the plan. When costed, it was

found that the proposed 12 sheets would be too expensive and it was decided to go ahead with only 6 sheets initially.

Building operations started on 4th August 1966 and the completed building was handed over to the Company on 7th September 1967.

The building contractors were JC Burns and Co of Larkhall. The building was completed on schedule and on budget.



ne first Ice Man of Hamilton, Mr Jimmy Cunningham

The laying of the first ice was on 11th September 1967. Mr Jimmy Cunningham was the first Ice Man. Curling commenced on 2nd October 1967 with skating every Saturday and Sunday from 30th September, From the start when competition ice and West of Scotland league ice was allocated, 55% of ice available was booked

Mr WH Robertson-Aikman performed the Opening Ceremony and threw the first stone on the 29th September. He was President of RCCC 64/65 and 65/66. He was also clerk of Hamilton Race Course and son of Col. Thomas Roberston-Aikman. Mr Robertson-Aikman's family home was The Ross, situated between the Avon and the Clyde between Hamilton and Motherwell. Col Thomas Robertson-Aikman captained the British Curling Team at the first Winter Olympics 1924 in Chamonix. William and Thomas were Presidents of Hamilton Curling Club for nearly a century between them.

By 1969 nearly 100% of available ice was booked. However no steps were taken to extend the rink as it was felt that problems would arise trying to fulfil 100% booking if there were more sheets – new ice rinks were opening up elsewhere therefore providing competition, 1972 saw the country in the grips of electricity strikes. Only one session was lost due to the efforts of directors lan T Brown and James Arneil including acquiring a generator.



Due to demand the car park was extended and skating numbers were now averaging 1800 skaters per weekend – an increase of 300 over the last few years.

Junior curling was introduced and was a great success. A trophy was donated by Mrs McLay, The Claremont Trophy.

The Ladies Open was fully subscribed by not only local rinks but rinks from all over Scotland. There was a reserve list.

Both the Cambusnethan Cup and the British Mixed Open were full and both proved a great success.



Alan Wiseman, Margaret Wiseman, Alan Stirling, Isobel Torrance, Bob McGregor, Alex Torrance

In **1973** the BMO and Cambusnethan were both oversubscribed and entries had to be restricted. The Ladies Open was extended to accommodate the demand. LIR was delighted to be awarded the Scottish Championship.

Mr Bob Macgregor was appointed Ice Rink Manager. He had previously been Manager at Haymarket.

Hamilton Young Curlers Club was formed in

1974. Many talented young curlers started out in this club. Coaches are recruited from within the members who had a sliding delivery.

In 1975/76 Squash arrives at LIR. It was a cheaper alternative to an additional 6 sheets for curling and would make use of buildings



and land. Other alternatives that were looked at were a golf driving range, roller skating but squash was finally decided on. It would provide additional income without substantial expense. This was the height of squash popularity. There were six courts built, two of which were glass fronted.

Although there was an excess demand for curling ice at 5.30 and 8.00 pm there was a surplus at other times and other leagues were formed to try and make more use of this ice. Therefore another 6 sheet rink would not have been economically viable.

= 1976/77

There were problems with the ice floor and a surface burner was required and we borrowed one from Perth Ice Rink This proved successful



and we bought our own.



The squash courts were now complete and all classes of membership were full and there was a waiting list. Squash was proving to be a great success and the refurbished dining room is now in operation. The existing changing rooms were being used for both curling and squash and it became apparent that there was not enough room to accommodate everyone. The Board look at adding an extension to

the building which would provide the squash players their own changing facilities, expand the lounge area give a new dining room and kitchen and also toilet facilities upstairs.

Alex Torrance, of Crookedstone Farm, donated the Crookedstone Trophy for the Shareholders competition in 1979.

Inflation takes a heavy toll on the finances of the rink and the increase in prices of oil, gas, wages and rates proves a worrying time for the Board. After an EGM a rights issue was decided upon to aid the situation and a sale of shares was offered, £250 to existing shareholders and £350 to those on the waiting list.



Bruce Wares appointed Assistant Manager.

The central heating system changed from oil to gas as a way of cutting costs.



European Champions 1979: Willie Frame, Jim Waddell, Jim Forrest, George Bryan



= 1981

Who can remember Mrs Campbell, the cook, famed for her Haddock Mornay?

1983

Mr TB Dick, who has been secretary to the Board since the beginning retires and Mr John K Allison succeeds him. In recognition of the contribution made by TB Dick his Family donate a trophy to be played for in his honour. This competition is played for annually by all clubs.

Due to the increased numbers of the young curlers on a Saturday morning more coaches were required. They were recruited from more experienced, enthusiastic older members.

Squash interest starts to decline and there are some proposals to remove the courts, but this has never happened.

Mr Bruce Wares retires.

= 1984

Mr Gordon Manuel is appointed new Ice Rink Manager, he is also instrumental in introducing Ice Hockey to LIR.

Mr Tom Dickson retires as Chairman of the Board and appointed Honorary Chairman and Mr Jimmy Arneil is appointed Chairman.

= 1985



At an EGM Mr Tom Dickson is appointed Honorary President. A dinner is held in the Ice Rink to mark this occasion. A portrait and plaque are presented to him, this can be seen in the hallway in the Ice Rink along with his collection of Curling Pins collected on his Tour to Canada.

The Air Canada Sliver Broom is held in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. Many ice rink curlers were involved in various committees and contributed to making this World Championship a great success.

LIR hosted the Grand Transatlantic Match (GTM) and a new drink was created by Tom Gibson – The Clyde Steamer- made from Whisky, Cointreau and Crabbies

Green Ginger. Singing in the bar after the game could be heard at the museum at the bottom of the car park! Another memorable LIR day!

Mr Jimmy Cunningham retires after 18 years as Ice Man.

= 1986

Crossmyloof Ice Rink closes and we gain some clubs and curlers from there.

Curlers enjoying Clyde Steamers at the GTM

A Shareholders Committee is formed and they now run their own competitions and a proposal is made to start their games at 6pm.

= 1987

This year saw many complaints about poor quality of the ice. This was attributed to problems with the plant and the wrong paint being used on the floor but by the end of the season the problems had been resolved and we had new refurbished stones in play too.



1988

A new plant is installed and improves ice quality.

Founding Director Jimmy Arneil retires as Chairman and from the Board. He has served the Board for 23 years. His exceptional engineering skills had proved invaluable over the years, Mr Arneil agreed to remain as engineering Consultant to the Board. Mr Robert Lightbody is appointed Chairman.

Mrs Isobel Torrance is appointed to the Board, the first lady.

The skating figures are the best ever with over 500 skaters per session and curling figures held up well too. Almost all sessions are fully utilised with the exception of the 3pm which is 60% utilised. There is a total of 1800 members.

There was an internal re-organisation in order to try and obtain rates relief. To



that end the Ice Sports Club, responsible for the ice pad activities, the Squash Club responsible for the Squash Courts and the Ice Rink Club responsible for the bar/lounge and restaurant were formed.

= 1989

The Mirrors, which had been introduced in the mid 70's, were damaged by the ice hockey pucks. These first ones were actually foil covered and not glass as they now are.

= 1990

Skating figures have been badly affected by new facilities built in Motherwell and Coatbridge. This accompanied by unforeseen rates bills and other costs indicated the Rink was in a loss-making situation. This led to the Board to make financial cut backs. Mr Manuel, Ice Rink Manager, was made redundant, Ray in the bar, Anne in the restaurant and Ian Russell, ice man were to look after their own areas.

Other ways of raising and saving money were looked at including closing the loss-making restaurant and using the space for some other venture.

In 1991 an EGM is held and the company is re-registered as a Public Limited Company and there is an increase in the authorised share capital and a rights issue which raised £60,500.

= 1991

Advertising boards were introduced as a means of raising revenue to help off-set the decline in revenue from the skating numbers. This helped to minimise increases in ice charges.

It also became mandatory to become a member of the club. A new boiler was installed.

= 1992

The financial position of the restaurant is greatly improved following cutbacks in opening hours, reduction in staff and better stock control. Janette Shennen starts in the Office.

= 1993

Membership of the club is 1167. The Construction League returns to LIR. This has led to

the introduction of Sunday curling in place of skating.

Rae Mitchell retires from running the bar and is presented with a television as a thank you for her time with the Company. Anne Russell will look after both the bar and the restaurant. Jean Hyslop in the office goes part time and Joyce Lamb starts.

= 1994

Membership increases and financial crisis is steadied.

Mr Robert Lightbody retires as Chairman of the Board, and Mr Jimmy Raeburn succeeds him.

Jean Hyslop retires completely.

= 1995

In 1995 a filtered water system is trialled for pebbling but gave rise to problems with ice quality and the old method was reintroduced.

= 1996

New ice hall lighting is installed.

There are plans to re-do ice pad floor, add a suspended ceiling and relocate the car park. Fund raising to raise money to refurbish bar and lounge via a raffle proves successful.

= 1997

The bar area is refurbished and new carpet laid, the old lounge carpet is re-laid in the entrance hallway and upstairs hall. Did you ever notice the curling stone motif woven into it?

A successful and enjoyable Supper



Dance is held in Lounge to celebrate the 30th Anniversary.

= 1998

A Lottery Grant is awarded to carry out works involving the ice pad and to suspend the ceiling. This was to help reduce energy costs. The Ice Rink has to match the Lottery Grant and it is decided to try and sell off part of the adjacent land for housing.

= 1999

Detailed planning permission is sought by the Company for 30 flats on adjacent land. Unfortunately due to delays in this the Lottery funding was lost. Ice pad improvements are put on hold. Lockhart Steele is appointed Rink Manager.

= 2000

By 2000 due to delays and discussions with South Lanarkshire Council about planning permission there is no new flats developments yet.

Different ways of cost savings are looked at and on expert advice it is suggested that a new floor is simply laid on top of existing one. This would save on a huge civil engineering operation and allow more energy efficient cooling system to be installed. New stones are also procured.

= 2001

Planning permission is granted for the 20 flats next to Rink



Further wrangling with the Council regarding the flats development has delayed any refurbishment plans. Ice Man, Jim Blair is appointed.

Wheelchair curling comes to LIR.



James Watson, Ice Man is appointed.



Finally, the development site is marketed. There is a good response and successful sale.

Refurbishment commences on floor and ceiling. Car park is relocated to front of building and side area is let to Asda.

The mirrors are replaced.



The Lanarkshire Wheelchair Club goes from strength to strength and is one of, if not the biggest in the world. The facilities at LIR make it a very accessible facility for the Wheelchair Curlers.

Joyce Lamb retires from the Office.



Curling stones re-ground.

Anne Russell retires from the bar after almost 30 years with the Company and benefits from a collection from members. Maggie Moffat replaces her.

Jim Morrison is appointed Curling Development Officer. He follows on from Cate Brewster and Don Frame in this this role.



Fortieth Anniversary of the Rink is held in 2007 and an Invitation Bonspiel held. Skating figures are improving thanks to new TV show Dancing on Ice.





MENU

STARTER

Tomato and Basil Soup with a Crusty Roll

Classic Prawn Cocktail, Marie Rose Sauce and Buttered Brown Bread

MAIN COURSES

Roast Breast of Chicken, Caramelised Shallots,
Pancetta and Thyme Jus

Maple Syrup and Mustard Glazed Ramsay's Ham, Cranberry and Apple Sauce

DESSERTS

Apple and Cinnamon Crumble with Sauce Anglaise

Dark Chocolate Cup with Cranachan, Raspberry Puree, Homemade Shortbread

Tea & Coffee

RUNNING ORDER

Welcome Mr Jimmy Raeburn,
Chairman of Board of Directors Lanarkshire Ice Rink

===

Heads and Tails Mr Andy Cameron MBE, all proceeds to
Maggie's Lanarkshire minimum donation £10.
1st Prize £500 Voucher for Gleneagles Hotel,
Donated by LIR

2nd Prize Voucher for Apex Hotels, Donated by Apex Hotels

Grace: Mr Ian Fleming

555

Dinner

555

Toast to the Queen 15 min comfort break

555

Toast to Lanarkshire Ice Rink from Royal Caledonian Curling Club, Mr Graham Lindsay V.P.

555

Reply: Jimmy Raeburn

555

Speaker: Mr Andy Cameron MBE

Vote of Thanks: Mr Drew Moffat



New curling stones purchased.



A wheelchair lift has now been installed, this allows the Wheelchair curlers to integrate more easily with able bodied curlers and make use of all upstairs facilities.



The ash cloud prevented Isobel Waddell and Lockhart Steele's Scottish Championship winning Seniors Rinks being able to get to the World Championship Finals in Russia.



The Ice Plant is replaced.



Solar panels are fitted to the roof.

Stuart Love takes over the catering contract.

The decline in competition entries continues to be a problem. The Committees work hard to fill these and look for support from existing members.



The Lounge is refurbished, seats are recovered and the curling changing rooms are refurbished.



Maggie Moffat leaves the bar after 6 years and Kathleen Queen takes over.

= 2014



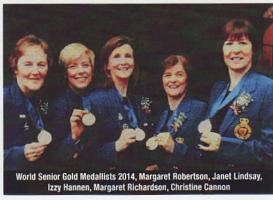
The Asda car park lease comes to an end. It has been in place since the redevelopment of the car park. This results in a big loss of revenue but renegotiations are taking place.

Continued improvements to the rink helped us attract competitions such as Four Nations, National Seniors, Under 17's

Grand Slam finals, British Wheelchair

Championships and in 2018 World Rotary Championships.

Individual members of LIR achieved success at Winter Paralympic Games, World Senior Ladies, World Juniors and Scottish Masters



2015

Unfortunately, no agreement is reached with Asda and as a result of the loss of revenue ice charges are increased.

= 2017

The curling season got off to a great start with a wonderful 50th Anniversary Celebration Day held on Saturday, September 16th.

Three curling sessions were held - each game being 6 ends long with stacked broom at close of end 3 so that all participants could enjoy a wee Clyde Steamer. Curling was held at 11am, 1pm and 3pm.

After the games everybody enjoyed a magnificent buffet dinner in the Restaurant.



The official, and main, event of the day was the cutting of the cake by Alex Torrance. This was followed by the throwing of the first stone by Meg Allan with Aileen Neilson holding the brush while Hazel Smith and Jay Wilson duly swept the stone. Meg delivered a magnificent stone as it landed on the pot lid! Chairman, Jimmy Raeburn gave a warm speech and was duly surprised himself when he was presented with a lovely decanter and glasses in appreciation of his Chairmanship for the past 23 years.

Approximately 200 people attended the Anniversary Bonspiel either to watch or to curl and to enjoy the hospitality - everybody left with a souvenir glass. The ice rink itself

was beautifully decorated with a wonderful display of vintage photographs covering many decades - this brought back such lovely memories to many people.

The Board are continually, over all the years, trying to improve the building and find ways of saving energy throughout the club. This is an ongoing challenge.

They are also actively encouraging national competitions to use the excellent facilities we have at LIR. Forthcoming events are World Rotary Championships in April 2018, The Henderson Bishop Championship in February 2018 and a Canadian Men's Tour in January.



The Committees all work hard in providing domestic competitions and activities to encourage individual, club and inter rink entries. They are always looking for support by your entry.

Hamilton Scottish

Scottish Men's Champions

1979 George Bryan

1979 Jim Forrest

1974, 79 Willie Frame

1973, 75 Bill Kerr

1964, 72, 74 Robert Kirkland

1973, 75 Tom McGregor

1974 James Steele

1964, 72, 73, 75 Alex F Torrance

1964, 72, 73, 75 Alex Torrance

1964, 72, 74, 79 Jim Waddell

Scottish Women's Champions

1978, 82 Marion Armour

1988, 89, 91, 93, 94 Christine Cannon

(Allison)

1988 Sheena Drummie

1985, 86, 99 Isobel Hannen (Torrance)

1985, 86 Sheila Harvey

1997 Lucy Levack

1979 Beth Lindsay

1985, 86, 92, 98, 02, 04, 07, 10

Jackie Lockhart (Steele)

1985, 86, 91, 93 Mgt Richardson (Craig)

1978, 82 Isobel Torrance

1978, 82 Isobel Waddell

1978, 82 Margaret Wiseman

Scottish Junior Men's Champions

1977 Archie Craig

2003 Bryan Greenock

2006, 07, 08 Gordon McDougal

1977 Tom McGregor

1977 Lockhart Steele

2012, 13, 14 Kyle Waddell

1977 Gavin Wiseman

Scottish Junior Women's Champions

1983 Isobel Hannen (Torrance)

2014, 15, 16 Rachel Hannen

1983 Sheila Harvey

1995, 96 Lucy Levack

1983 Jackie Lockhart (Steele)

1983 Margaret Richardson (Craig)

Scottish Senior Men's Champions

1997 Jim Forrest, Drew Cameron

1995 Jack Muir, Bill Warnock, Bill Watson

1981 Bill Phillips, Bill Browning,

Ian Forsyth, John Hathorn

1976 Bill Kerr

2007,09,10,12,14 Lockhart Steele

1995,97 Jim Waddell

Scottish Senior Women's Champions

1993,94 Meg Allan

2015 Margaret Archer

2013, 14,16,17 Christine Cannon

2009 Marion Craig

1993,94 Barbara Dykes

1993,94 Isobel Forrest

2014, 16 Isobel Hannen

2014 Janet Lindsay

2009 Catherine Raeburn

2013, 14, 16, 17 Margaret Richardson

1993.94 Ena Smith

2010 Isobel Waddell

National Masters Men's Champions

2014 Bryce Smith

2014 Ian Fleming

2014 Gordon Gilchrist

2014 Jim Raeburn

2017 Lockhart Steele

Champions from 1967

National Masters Women's Champions

2017 Elaine Semple

Scottish Pair's Champions

1987 Lockhart Steele, Archie Craig

Scottish Senior Mixed Champions

2005, 06, 07 Tommy Campbell, Isobel Waddell, Jim Waddell, Margaret Robertson

2010,11,14 Archie Craig, Marion Craig 2009 Johan Steele

Scottish Wheelchair Champions

2010, 11, 13 Aileen Neilson **2010, 11** Michael McCreadie

The Rink Championship

2011 Avondale Heather H.Neilson, D Frame, R Kirkland, S Anderson 1994 Lesmahagow - L Steele, D Bell, John Muir, Jack Muir 1976 Hamilton & Thornyhill -G Raeburn, W Frame, A Frame, I Hamilton 1967 Hamilton & Thornyhill -

AF Torrance, A Torrance, R Kirkland, J Waddell

Henderson Bishop

1981, 87 Ena Smith, Isobel Forrest, Muriel Baxter, Betty Bryan 1983 Alison Allison, Irene Taylor, Liz Colley, Jean Neilson

Hamilton Internationalists from 1967

World Women's Championship Medalists

2002 Gold Jackie Lockhart 1985 Silver Isobel Torrance, Margaret Craig, Jackie Steele, Sheila Harvey 1994 Silver Christine Cannon, Sheila Harvey

1982 Bronze Isobel Torrance, Isobel Waddell, Marion Armour, Margaret Wiseman

2007 Bronze Jackie Lockhart

McPherson, Angie Malone

Winter Paralympic Games Medalists

2006 Silver Michael McCreadie, Tom Killin, Angie Malone2014 Bronze Aileen Neilson, Robert

European Men's Championship Medalists

1979 Gold Jim Waddell, Willie Frame,Jim Forrest, George Bryan1998 Silver John Muir1976 Bronze Jim Steele, Lockhart Steele,Ian Fairbairn, John Veitch

European Women's Championship Medalists

1975 Gold Beth Lindsay
2007 Silver Jackie Lockhart
2015 Silver Rachel Hannen
1978 Bronze Isobel Torrance, Isobel Waddell, Marion Armour, Margaret Wiseman

1979 Bronze Beth Lindsay

Hamilton Internationalists from 1967

European Mixed Championship Medalists

2006 Gold Jackie Lockhart

World Junior Men's Championship Medalists

2013 Gold Kyle Waddell2014 Silver Kyle Waddell2006 Bronze Gordon McDougall2012 Bronze Kyle Waddell

World Junior Women's Championship Medalists 2015 Silver Rachel Hannen

Winter Universiade Medalists Men 2013 Silver Kyle Waddel

World Senior Men's World Championship Medalists

2007 Gold Lockhart Steele, Archie Craig

2009 Bronze Lockhart Steele, Archie Craig

World Junior Women's Championship Medalists

2014 Gold Christine Cannon, Margaret Richardson, Isobel Hannen, Janet Lindsay

2016 Gold Jackie Lockhart, Christine Cannon, Isobel Hannen, Mgt Richardson 2017 Bronze Jackie Lockhart, Christine Cannon, Isobel Hannen, Mgt Richardson, Janet Lindsay

World Wheelchair Championship Medalists

2004 Gold Michael McCreadie, Angie Malone, Jim Sellar

2005 Gold Michael McCreadie, Tom Killin, Angie Malone

2011 Silver Aileen Neilson, Tom Killin, Angie Malone

2002 Bronze Alex Harvey, Michael McCreadie, James Sellar 2007 Bronze Michael McCreadie, Aileen

Neilson, James Sellar, Angie Malone 2017 Bronze Aileen Neilson, Robert McPherson, Angie Malone

Past Presidents of the RCCC

1996/97 Alex Torrance 1986/87 Alex F Torrance 1979/80 Tom M Dickson 1965/66/67 WH Robertson Aikman

Past Ladies Branch Presidents

2006/07 Marion Craig 1998/99 Johan Steele 1994/95 Isobel Forrest 1991/92 Isobel Torrance







































Curling

Isobel's rink retain titl

Scottish champs prepare to take on the

Pictures: Norman Inglis















Lanarkshire Ice Rink // 1967 - 2017 50 YEARS OF CURLING

The Board of Directors would like to thank everyone for their very generous support and assistance in helping with this celebration.

Boyd & Co.

Brewin Dolphin

Drew & Fiona Moffat

Lanarkshire Ladies Committee

Raeburn Brick

Alan & Margaret Wiseman

Heather Wyper, Apex Hotels

50th Celebration Committee
Lanarkshire Ice Rink Club
Hamilton Ice Sports Club
Turkey Shooters
Lockhart Steele
Janette Shennan
Jim Blair & James Watson
Stewart Love & his staff
Kathleen Queen & her staff
Cleaner - Theresa

