



Lanark Rocks

lanarkcurlingclub.org

Issue 2

November 2009

A Historical Tale

By Charlie Steele

Charlie Steele (former club member and brother of Tom) was attending a Dinner during the summer months. Charlie found himself sitting next to Sheriff Smith (a knowledgeable man on the history of curling) and they got talking, as you do, about curling on Lanark Loch. The Sheriff then researched into the Scotsman Archives and provided Charlie with the following data.

Thank you for sharing this with us Charlie.....

Lanarkshire Curling Club. 1867, 7 Jan., The Scotsman. "LANARKSHIRE CURLING CLUB.- Weather permitting, the GRAND MATCH between NORTH and SOUTH of RIVER CLYDE, will take place on LANARK LOCH on WEDNESDAY, 9th inst., in place of Tuesday.

J. CLARK FORREST, Secretary. City of Glasgow Bank, Hamilton,

5th Jan. 1867." 1867, 12 Jan., The Scotsman, "LANARKSHIRE CURLING CLUB. Weather permitting, the GRAND MATCH between NORTH and SOUTH of RIVER CLYDE will take place on LANARK LOCH, on MONDAY NEXT.

J. CLARK FORREST, Secretary. City of Glasgow Bank, Hamilton, 11th January 1867. Note.- The Day now Fixed will not be Changed unless Thaw sets in."

1868, 6 Jan., The Scotsman. "LANARKSHIRE CURLING CLUB.-

The Earl of Eglinton has accepted for Ayrshire a challenge from the Lanarkshire Curling Club, to meet them on one of the lochs near Gartcosh Station, with 100 rinks a-side. Arrangements are also nearly complete for a match with Renfrewshire on the same ice, with seventy rinks from each county. It is expected that both matches will take place on the same day. The Lanarkshire Club, which has now entered on the third year of its existence, is able to turn out 170 rinks, or 680 curlers."

Lanarkshire bonspiel. 14 January 1867. "North and South of the River Clyde.

The match was one of the most extensive as well as the liveliest of the season. Lanarkshire mustered very strong. Altogether, there were on the loch upwards of 100 rinks, or upwards of 800 curlers. There were also a good many skaters on the ice, and a large number of general spectators, including a fair sprinkling of ladies. There were spectators from all parts of the shire and beyond, - the larger proportion, perhaps, being from the burgh of Lanark and neighbourhood. It was estimated that there would be 3000 to 4000 persons in all - curlers, skaters, and

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Lanarkshire Ice Rink

IN-TURNS

spectators generally upon the loch at one time in the course of the day. The ice was ten to twelve inches thick all over – in some places fifteen – so that there was no danger of immersion. Lanark Loch forms part of an extensive common pertaining to the neighbouring burgh of Lanark, from which it is distant about a mile to the eastward. At one time the loch was of comparatively small extent. Several years ago, however, it was greatly enlarged by the raising of its embankments, and its extent, including one or two islets, is variously estimated at fifteen, to twenty acres and upwards. It is about a mile in circumference. It therefore afforded ample scope for the numerous curlers whose rinks were ranged around it yesterday, as well as for the skaters and spectators.

The scene was lively and picturesque, and not a little enhanced by the natural features of the locality. The loch is surrounded by fir plantations, excepting on the south side, where there is an eminence which afforded an excellent view of the whole match, with all its enlivening accompaniments and accessories. The rinks, in a general way, radiated all round from the middle of the loch, and each had its outline more or less distinctly defined by a wall of onlookers, apparently no less eager, than the curlers themselves. A space in the middle of the loch was unoccupied by the curlers, and, as well as the otherwise unoccupied creeks, was turned to full account by the skaters. A creek behind one of the islands was occupied by a select party of ladies and gentlemen, who appeared to be skating quadrilles. The curling did not commence in earnest till noon, when the sound of a bugle gave the signal for the opening of the match. The curlers at the various rinks were all pretty nearly up to time, and the progress was pretty equal over all, with a few exceptions. The leads were the usual full length – 38 yards from tee to tee. The condition of the ice was middling, neither very smooth nor very rough. The freezing of the half-melted snow had occasioned a slight roughness, but such as some curlers professed to like better than the smoother ice; and certainly it served to bring out most distinctly the “roaring” characteristic of the game. What, with roaring, shouting, and talking, the noise was no less enlivening than the sight. Before the match had got half through, victory had begun to declare in favour of the South. The North fought hard to make up for their shortcomings, but it was found that, when the bugle sounded for the match to close, the “Southerners” were 337 ahead – the aggregate number of shots being 2113 for the South, and 1776 for the North. It was nearly 4p.m. when the match ceased....”

1868, 21 Oct., *The Scotsman*, “LANARKSHIRE CURLING CLUB.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of MEMBERS will be held in the COMMERCIAL INN, HAMILTON, on FRIDAY the 30th OCTOBER, Half-past Two o'clock afternoon.

J. CLARK FORREST, Secretary. City of Glasgow Bank, Hamilton, 17th October 1868.”

How times have changed given the present climate!

The members at such earlier times were guaranteed outside curling—and the Vassie Medal was originally presented for such a competition.

I guess the Grand Match was organised by an ‘Area Committee’ because no mention of it is mentioned in Lanark CC’s Minutes from the same time period—however, do read on to see what was of significant to our members at the same time.



FROM THE MINUTES BOOK—19th January 1867

“A general meeting of the club was held this evening at 7 o’clock in the Mason’s Hall—the President in the Chair, for the purpose of considering what steps to take with the contractor for the shelving of the Curling Stone House, he having deviated from the specification of the work to be executed. After a considerable discussion Mr Wood propose the following motion which was seconded by George Muir.

‘That the contractor be directed to proceed with the work to the satisfaction of Mr Watson and the Office Bearers although there may be some deviation from the original plans’.

An amendment was proposed by Mr Peter Sinclair, and seconded by Mr John Gilchrist, ‘that the contractor be instructed to proceed with the work according to plan and specifications’.

Upon a show of hands having been taken, the President declared Mr Wood’s motion carried.

FROM THE MINUTES BOOK—28th January 1867

“At a meeting of Committee held in Mr W Steele’s for the purpose of allotting the holes for holding the curling stones it was proposed by Mr Vassie, and seconded by Mr John McLellan, that the stones of the members who are formed into Rinks be placed on he left hand side of the House and that the holes be numbered 1, 2, 3 etc from the door inwards to be balloted for by the Rinks—each Rink t go from top to bottom of the rack. Agreed to unanimously. The meeting then proceeded to ballot the rinks with the following as the result:-

No 1—W Cowan

Nos 2 and 3—J Vassie

No 4—D Brown

No 5—R Ritchie

No 6—J McLellan

No 7—S Peat

No 8—S Dickson

No 9—W Tudhope

No 10—W Day”

Read on as the curling stones shelves/holes now begin to stir much feeling.....

FROM THE MINUTES BOOK—4th FEBRUARY 1867

“A general meeting of the Club was held in Mr John Veitch’s this evening at 7 o’clock. The meeting was called by the President at the instance of a requisition handed in to him—the President in the Chair.

After some discussion Mr Brown proposed the following resolution “That this meeting do now proceed to allocate the Pigeon Holes for the curling stones by ballot as the most equitable method where all are interested in proportion to the value of their subscription. That each subscriber’s name with the number of holes for which he has paid, be written on a piece of paper, folded up, and thrown into a hat, and then regularly drawn one at a time, and the holes allocated as drawn. Those members who have paid for more than one hole to have the whole of their numbers in succession. Every number to be inserted on the back of the slip of paper as allocated, and afterwards, regularly entered on the records of the Club”. The motion was seconded by Mr Irving.

Mr Vassie then proposed as an amendment “that the meeting approve of and confirm the arrangement made by the Committee”. The amendment was seconded by Mr Tennant.

A show of hands having been taken by the President the motion was declared carried, 16 voting for the motion and 14 for the amendment. The meeting then proceeded to draw for the pigeon holes—the results was as follows:

No 1—Robert Watson

No 2—John Alexander

Nos 3 and 4—W Tennant

No 5—James Wilson

No 6 Edward Gilroy

No 7—John Clarkson

No 8—D Simpson

(the list continues to No 64 but here are a few well kent names still known in Lanark today -)

Jack Forrest Nos 19 and 20

W Steele—Nos 30 and 31

J Vassie—Nos 85 thro’ to 92

James Frame—No 75)

And now, war breaks out.....



FROM THE MINUTES BOOK-8th FEBRUARY 1867

“A General Meeting of the Club, called by the President in consequence of a numerous signed Requisition sent to him requesting him to call a General Meeting as early as possible, was held in the Masons Lodge this evening at 8 o'clock—the President in the Chair.

After considerable discussion Mr Thomas Thompson made the following motion “I move that this meeting rescind the proceedings entered into at the illegal meeting of the Club held on the 4th inst—approve of the arrangement made by the Committee, and request them to ballot pigeon holes for the whole of the private members whether they have paid or not, and to ascertain the exact cost of each pigeon hole, asking each member with the same in terms of Minute of Annual Meeting and returning the money to each individual which may have been overpaid”. The motion was seconded by Mr W Steele. At this stage of the proceedings Mr Shirley proposed that before taking the vote on Mr Thompson's motion the sense of the meeting should be taken on the legality of the meeting held in Mr John Veitch's on the 4th inst. The President then took a show of hands as to the legality of said meeting and declared that the meeting had decided by a large majority that it was illegal.

Mr Thomas Thompson's motion was then put to the meeting, and no countermotion being brought forward, a show of hands was taken and the motion declared carried. In terms of motion the balloting for the holes for priate members was then proceeded with and the following was the result:

(again, a long list of member with their new pigeon hole numbers was written in the Minute Book. Obviously the number of pigeon holes had changed between members)! 4 members had the word 'dead' written beside their name: 3 had 'retired' and 4 had 'left'.)

Mr James Hislop then proposed “that the hacks be put upon the holes at the expense of the club and that no party be given a pigeon hole until payment of his abatement is made”. The motion was carried by Mr James Muir and unanimously agreed to.

Mr Vassie proposed the following motion “that any members although having holes allotted to him is at liberty to exchange these for others which may be unoccupied.” Seconded by Mr James Cassel and agreed to. George Muir gave notice of motions to be brought before the next annual meeting as follows:

1st—that Rule 7 be annulled and the following inserted in its place. “No individuals to be admiot-
ted as members of the Club unless formed into rinks or to fill up existing vacancies. Application to be made to the Secretary which is to be laid before and approved of by the Committee previous to admission”.

2nd—That in matters pertaining to rink affairs no person be allowed to vote unless he is a member of an existing rink.

To update our current, and newest members, Lanark CC did possess a Curling Stone House beside Lanark Loch but the stones were removed and are now stored in a big box in M Yuill's garden. The club has 16 stones, 16 handles, 2 crampits and 2 measures. The handles are with the current President each year.

Perth Scottish Men's and Women's Championships at the Dewars Ice Rink—2009

**By: Alistair Mackintosh
Curling Correspondent**

What a week that was , just a reply to an e mail sent out by Anne from the RCCC for club members of Scotland to help in the collection of STATS saw me attending the Scottish Curling Championships for the week , and what a week it turned out to be , a truly wonderful experience .

The first thing to mention is that it has nothing to do with the scores, as with us at club matches they keep the scoreboard updated by the teams themselves , what in effect I and my fellow operators were doing was to put into a linked computer each team player in my lane four basic inputs

- 1) Direction of rotation
- 2) type of shot eg guard or draw etc
- 3) swept or not for distance
- 4) result on a scale of 1-5 of outcome as to the shot asked for

This all sounds relatively simple but as there are a few modifiers to enter as well such as around a guard or run-back , tap etc and a 5 second delay in the screen re-freshing you sometimes wish you could tap the glass and ask the players to hold it a minute while you finished logging the details !!! but after a while you get to read the game better and can enter some of the information ahead of the shot called for .

Apart from the technical side the crowds and the tension built up as the week of round robin competition marched on and the stamina required was evident 2 matches every day and hours from 9am to 10.30pm were the norm , in between games you get to socialise with the coaches , players, physios and officials and not once, bearing in mind that they were there for a competition, did any of them have a 'don't talk to me attitude'; they are very down to earth and gracious with their time for you as a punter as can be seen in some of the photos . So in conclusion if you want to learn more about the game and get a chance to get up close and personal with the top men and women don't hesitate to answer Anne's e mail next year and take your camera , it was also good to see people from the Hamilton Rink up there as well as having Richard Gray working alongside



Alistair with David Murdoch.



Alistair with the girls (above) and with other RCCC employees and volunteers (left).
Alistair with the RCCC girls below.

Alistair brought back a signed programme which is now kept with our Club's records.
Thank you Alistair.



CHANGE OF PAIRS DATE

Bob Thomson has been skipping a Lanark rink within the Lanarkshire Province League and in his second season he successfully led his team to be Lanarkshire Province League champions. This happened last season. The outcome of this was an invitation for Bob and his team to play in the Scottish Province League and this competition will take place in Greenacres from Friday 13th—Sunday 15th November 2009. This is a knock-out competition so everybody will be kept on their toes—nerves will be jangling.

Lanark CC sincerely wish Bob and his team all the very best in this competition. Enjoy!

Bob Thomson, Donald MacRae, Jack Hood, Alistair Mackintosh winning the Province League Championship.



AS THIS WEEKEND CLASHED WITH OUR ORIGINAL PAIRS DAY COMPETITION, THEN THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO CHANGE THE PAIRS DAY COMPETITION. THE 'PAIRS' WILL NOW BE HELD ON SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER—SAME TIME AS IN THE BOOKLET.

OPENING BONSPIEL

Congratulations to Jack Hood for skipping the rink to win the first piece of silverware of the season.

Jack was just promoted to skip at the recent AGM so things are looking promising for him—good luck in the leagues also.

The winning team (from l to r): Jane Morton (presenting), Jack Hood, Marian Fergusson and Wilson Heatlie



I do hope you have enjoyed this issue. If you have any items for inclusion or features you would like to see included in the next issue, scheduled **January 2010**, then please contact me. It is always interesting to hear about your activities outwith the Club. So don't be shy! And of course we are always interested in 'Pick-ups' (Curling Gossip)!!



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