



CHARLES LEES PAINTING

By Richard Gray

The RCCC is instigating a campaign to raise funds for the Charles Lees painting. The painting is iconic, dating from 1849. It features the playing of the Grand Match in Linlithgow Loch on 25 Jan 1848, that is 107 years to the day before I was born! The painting was purchased by RCCC in 1898 and is the Club's largest, measuring 8' x 5' in size. A full history and description has been posted to the RCCC's website.

Time has taken its toll, however, such that both canvas and the frame are in urgent need of restoration. The latest estimate puts the cost at £50,000 to have the painting fully restored and

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The Magazine of Lanark Curling Club

ready for display. The restoration project will be separated into two parts, the canvas and the frame, with priority being given to the canvas as the first area to be tackled.

There is a request from the National Portrait Gallery that the painting hangs at a major Exhibition featuring Scottish sporting heritage in November 2011, to mark the re-opening of the Gallery after its refurbishment. The Lees curling painting would form the centrepiece alongside Lees' other famous painting, "The Golfers". It is at least arguable that the sports of golf and curling are two of the most important things that Scotland has given to the world. I think it would be wonderful and most appropriate if indeed the Exhibition could be organised as planned.

In short, the RCCC is appealing to its members that we have a duty to the sport and the nation to improve the life expectancy of this painting by having it professionally restored and preserved. The campaign is to be led by a cross section of RCCC members, including Area Standing Committee and Ladies Standing Committee representatives, Board members and the Executive. The opportunity to donate is to be organised via the RCCC Charitable Trust, and that the Royal Club may claim back the tax paid element, increasing the worth of donation by 28%.

The Royal Club is determined that this restoration project is the best course of action to be followed to save the painting for the nation and have it available to be enjoyed by all. Hopefully the project will be well supported by members, as owners. The cause is a deserving one!

If you would like to donate to the restoration project then please consult the RCCC website.

President - Jane Morton



Presidential Musings

Welcome to the new curling season. What a quick summer that was! It seemed to whizz past, although I was always busy.

My most recent adventure was a family journey back in time. We were invited to my cousin's surprise 50th birthday party in Worcestershire. The surprise was a Sunday lunch on September 18th, which we would have to leave about 3pm to get back home that night.

Our first job was to find old photos and then send them, secretly, to her husband and children. We decided we'd make a weekend of it so my sister organised an overnight stay in a hotel near Wigan and Bed & Breakfast near the party hotel.

On the Friday, I set off after school with my parents and my sister, Anne. We travelled in her car and as soon as we got going, the rain came pelting down, hammering on the roof of the car. My other sister and her husband were making their way to the party from Inverness, via Edinburgh in their campervan, so imagine our surprise when we passed them just south of Penrith! Andy was concentrating on driving in the difficult conditions as Mum and I waved frantically. I sent Mary a text, "We just passed you!". Her reply; "Andy saw the waving & I confirmed it was people we knew!" The rain kept on raining until we stopped for the night.

The meal and rooms were very pleasant and we had all got into holiday mood. Over breakfast, Mum suggested that since we were near Wroughtington we should go and see where she spent some time during the War, in a caravan. It was my turn to drive, and at every road junction Mum would remind us that there were no road signs during war-time. Working from her memories of getting off the bus and walking uphill with heavy cases containing tinned food, and turning left at the field that always had goats in it, we gradually narrowed our search. We talked to lots of people, and had many interesting conversations about wartime at the many farm shops in the area, and even a remote motorbike showroom. When we came to a sign for Tunley, Mum remembered the farm was called North Tunley. We did eventually find it, and spoke to a very patient man who actually seemed quite interested in tales of the bombing in Liverpool, no petrol and rationing.



Soon, we were off again to Janet's house. Her 'children' had managed to secretly cook, and freeze, enough food for twenty people for the evening before her birthday. Of course when we all arrived and the food was produced, as if by magic, Janet thought that was surprise enough! We left after an emotional evening of great fun, apparently to return to the frozen north, as we knew that she and Steve were going out for a posh, birthday lunch the next day.

In fact we went to the B&B and Mary and Andy went back to the local Cotswold camp-site. Next morning, as we made our way to Broadway, I noticed that every road we took had accident black spots on the road signs. Apparently it's not the narrow, winding roads that are the problem, but the motorcyclists! As Janet arrived, she realised that not only were we still there, but fifty more of her friends just happened to be there too! What a surprise! During the whole event, all the photos appeared as life-sized images on the dining room wall...

And so I returned to Primary One next morning and curled on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Thank goodness for the September Weekend, to recover!

This year I've been asked to be in P.1 all day, every day. The downside of this is that I can't be available for curling on March 22nd or 29th because of parents' night and the school show! I hope there will not be too many snags to sort out, as the school year progresses.

I'm particularly looking forward to the new league format of the Fannakapan, which should avoid all those question marks in my diary! Our annual jaunt to Stranraer is currently under review, in order to try to organise an alternative. There will be no Indoor Grand Match this season, of course, and so we must wait for really cold weather! Perhaps the road network will be better prepared this winter?

Wishing you all a good season,

Keen & Clear!

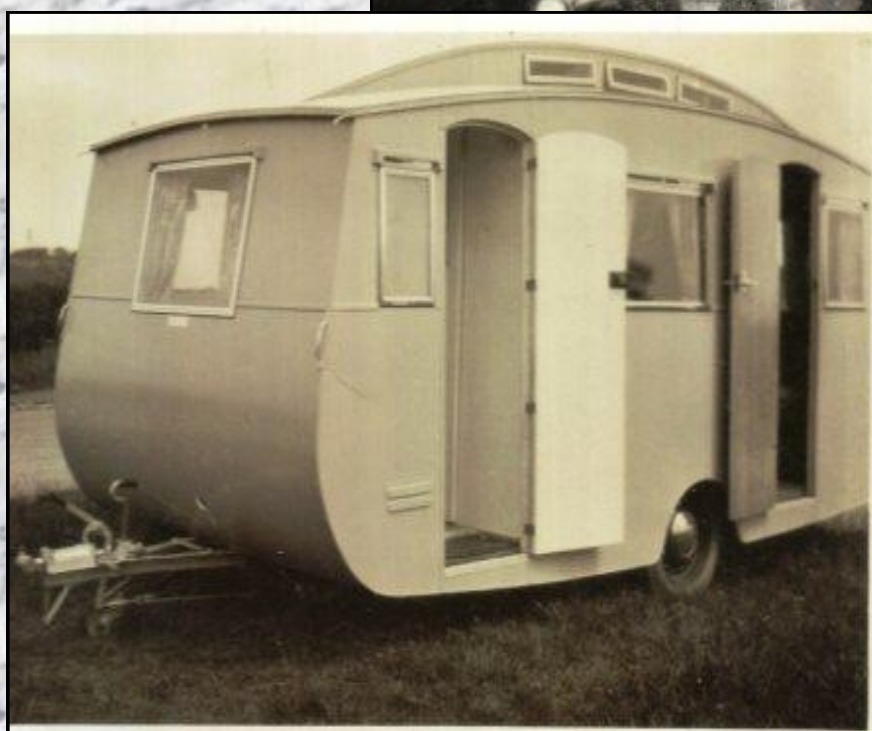
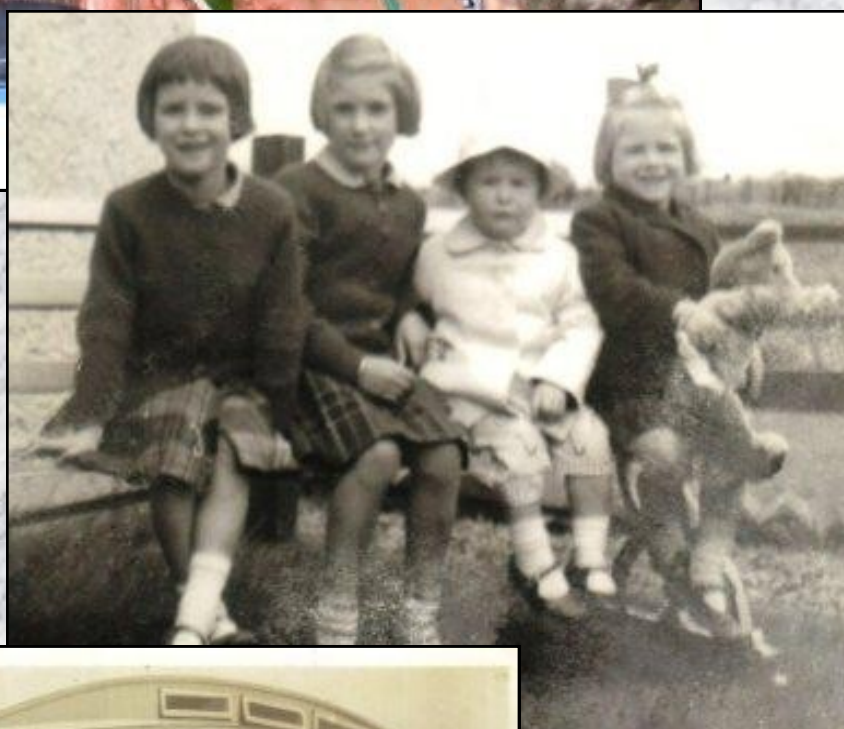
Jane



P
A
R
T
Y



Mary, Jane, Janet
and Anne



Wartime
Caravan





Secretary - Anne Hood

Editorial

NEW MEMBERS REQUIRED

Lanark CC, this season, has 6 rinks playing in the club's fixtures and I think all members are worried that this decline does not continue. So, a plea to all members—please encourage new members to our friendly club. Our survival will depend on it!

At the AGM Martin Yuill informed members of his idea to encourage younger members to curling. His plan was to approach Lanark Grammar to inform youngsters of curling and to provide training opportunities for them. The younger people would then play against some of the Lanark teams in friendly games so that their involvement in curling was on and off the ice! Martin approached the Development Officer not only to inform him of this development but to gain his advice/support also. At a Committee Meeting in May the following action was decided:

- Anne Hood would assist Martin by contacting Lanark Grammar to seek a meeting with the Depute Head of Senior School. This meeting was held in June and both the Depute Head and Head of PE were keen to offer this opportunity to the senior pupils. It would not only offer another sport within the PE curriculum but it was a good school/community link. It was agreed that the pupils would be informed via a School Assembly in the new school year. However, Her Majesty's Inspectorate came to the school in October so our Assembly was delayed until after their departure.
- Anne and Martin were invited to Lanark Grammar on Wednesday 26 October where Martin gave a very professional and succinct introduction to curling. We had 2 female pupils immediately interested and the Head of PE will now seek names of interested pupils—we have been told to give her 2 weeks before this information is collated.



- Martin's plan was to introduce the young people to lessons on etiquette, curling delivery (by using the indoor 'kurling' stones), rules of the game etc during their core PE time. This will be held, in school, either on Wednesday or Fridays. Anne and Martin are now currently attempting to 'borrow' the indoor 'kurling' stones and this looks very hopeful at time of printing.
- The young people will pay £5 a game when they play on the ice—the remainder of the cost being subsidised by the Club hence why subs are being charged £2 a game during this season (as agreed at the AGM).
- Transportation will be provided to the young people also.

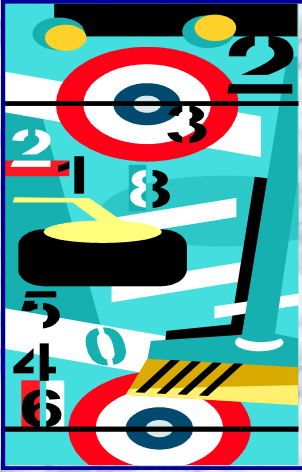
This is the up-to-date news of this new development and I will keep members informed of further progress in future editions of Lanark Rocks.

However, on behalf of all members, a huge THANK YOU must go to Martin Yuill for the concept and his energy he has given to this initiative.

It is known that the young people may not be members immediately but unless we plant the seed then Lanark CC cannot hope to encourage youngsters to our curling ranks. This is most definitely a long-term plan and a worthwhile one.

THANK YOU MARTIN.





In-Turns

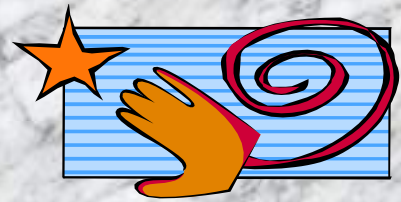
STRANRAER WEEKEND IS CANCELLED

It is sad to report that due to a very poor response (only 5 members indicating their availability to participate in the Stranraer weekend during February 2012) then Sandra asked all members if a different date would be more amenable. Sandra collated the email responses and noted that a possible 16 members are willing to participate in a 'weekend away' but not during the February weekend. Sandra contacted both Stranraer and Kinross but the season is heavily booked at both venues—there was space at several weekends for one rink but certainly not for a Club Weekend away.

Therefore the committee decided to cancel the Stranraer weekend in February 2012 and Jane (who will be coordinating this event over the next 2 years) will book another date which has still to be confirmed for 2013.

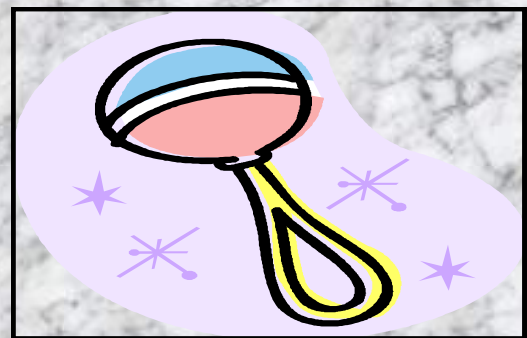


In-Turns



Congratulations

To Martin and Elspeth Yuill who became grandparents recently—yet another beautiful granddaughter.



HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY
to Hugh Campbell on 8th
November.

Hugh shares the same
birthday as Jack—
however, Jack is younger
Hugh!





Out-Turns

Competitions

Despite being early in the curling season there is some news re Lanark's record in recent competitions.

Unfortunately we are out of the T.B Dick competition.

Lanark made the Semi Finals of the Biggar & Upperward Championship Province but lost to Douglas in a closely fought contest.

Lanark was 2nd in the Biggar & Upperward Annual Bonspiel with +9 shots. (Coulter accumulated +17 shots).

However, Lanark is still making good progress within the Lanarkshire Province League and Knockout Championship.

Lanark has entered a rink for the new Tom Diickson Rosebowl competition.

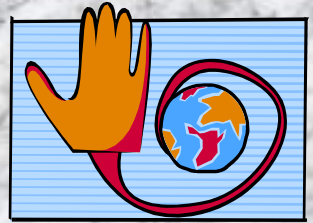
Lanark will be represented in the Caledonia Trophy also.

Tom Steele is President of the Ice Sports committee this year so we will be supporting you Tom.....



Pick-Ups

Members' Snippets



WHO is this Club Member participating in a Santa fun run?

The beagle is the clue!

Answer: See back page





CHEERS TO THE REST OF THE SEASON.

Lanark Rocks is the periodical publication of **Lanark Curling Club** www.lanarkcurlingclub.org and is sent free of charge to members. All articles of interest to members are welcome and will be acknowledged but may be edited for publication. Members adverts are FOC. All trademarks are acknowledged. The deadline for the next issue, will be **whenever—just provide your material to the editor as and when it is ready.**

Anne Hood - 4 Murray Road LAW ML8 5HR

Who was Santa?

It was Brian Stephenson.

