



Lanark Rocks

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Our Tribute to

MARGARET

SOMMERVILLE

The Magazine of Lanark Curling Club

A TRIBUTE TO
MARGARET SOMMERVILLE

3 MAY 1920—24TH NOVEMBER 2016

HONORARY MEMBER OF LANARK CC



OUR MARGARET

Written by Anne Hood

All information given by Lorna and Eric Gray

It was a sad day indeed on Friday 2nd December 2016 when a large number of Lanark CC members entered Kirkton Parish Church, Carluke to attend the funeral of our beloved Honorary Member, Margaret Sommerville.

Margaret became a Honorary Member of Lanark CC during the season 2005-06 but had been a member since 1986.

Margaret's took curling lessons and began curling when Hamilton Ice Rink opened in 1967. Margaret joined Lanark Ladies but, in those days, you couldn't get into the club unless you could curl! In fact, Margaret had to wait a long time to join a curling club—such was the demand that there were 'waiting lists' for membership. There were more ice rinks in Margaret's playing days so she was well travelled but, as Lorna stated, even if you had progressed through to the latter stages of a competition and found that the SF/Final clashed with your club game, then it was expected that you returned to play your club game! As for going on holidays during the curling season—well, that was a 'no no'.

Every year Margaret, alongside Lorna and Eric Gray, would attend our Bonspiels and Prize-giving ceremonies. So, I thought it would be a nice touch to honour Margaret with her own edition of Lanark Rocks. The research for this article was very social as I met both Lorna and Eric for coffee in one of the garden centres and we chatted for several hours.

We all know that Margaret was very good friends with Lorna and Eric. So was this friendship born via curling? Lorna initially knew Margaret through Country Dancing and, of course, Margaret was well known in Carluke as she was married to the local GP. Her husband had a partnership in the local practice and, in those days, it was the (unpaid) duty of the GP's wife to make all appointments, to arrange for house visits and provide holiday cover. Even when Margaret left the house eg to curl, she had to arrange to have the telephone manned. It was a bit like Dr Findlay's Casebook but you daren't ask Margaret about her views re today's appointment system and the time it can take to see a doctor—having to wait to see a doctor for a few weeks was just unheard of in Margaret's days! Anyway, although Lorna knew of Margaret their friendship truly cemented through the curling circuit. Margaret was also a golfer and, as we know, golfing and curling tends to go 'hand in hand' - Margaret's passion however lay with curling. Margaret was over 80 yrs old when she hung up her curling shoes but during her curling life she had amassed a lot of achievements.

Ladies Open—rinks had to play in the 'qualifiers'. Can you imagine today a week's long competition with 64 rinks? Margaret played lead and was part of the winning team on two occasions—the latter win beating Betty Law who happened to be the top lady curler in Scotland. Betty Law's team comprised of herself, Jessie Young, Emily Tait (Lorna's aunt) and Bee Dodds. In one game Betty Law's team took 5 shots at the first end but Margaret's team came back to win.

In the Lanark League Margaret played with Ena Smith, Isobel Forrest and Lorna Gray. Nowadays we have, if we are lucky, 2 Divisions but these ladies had Division A through to Division E.



Margaret played in the West of Scotland (with BMA) —where you played 5 ends then came off the ice for a coffee before playing another 5 ends. How social..

Margaret's team lost in the SF in the Ladies Worlds.....

It was not unusual to be playing Lockerbie at 10 am and then to have your second game, in Hamilton, at 3 pm.

There was an infamous story concerning the annual match Margaret's team held with their partners. Each year the Ladies (Ena Smith, Isobel Forrest, Lorna Gray and Margaret) would challenge their husbands to a curling match after Hogmanay Dinner. One year, Eric Gray recounted that himself, Jim Forrest, Lex Smith and Andrew Sommerville decided to wine and dine their ladies very well prior to the match so that the 'amateurs' could stand a chance in the game! The ladies enjoyed their glasses of wine, and food, and when they started to play, Isa Jackson (Strathaven) took bets in the bar to see who would win—such was the enjoyment of this game. Lorna stated it took several ends before the ladies found 'their heads' and the ladies won by one shot. Such tactics, gentlemen—it nearly paid off!!

As if golfing and curling didn't take up enough of Margaret's time, she was also involved in voluntary work for the Red Cross. Margaret took over from Lady Clydesmuir and she railroaded friends and family into money collections as well as organising coffee mornings and cake baking. Margaret was game for anything.

Margaret was a Wishaw lass—attended Wishaw High where she met her future husband. Her husband, Andrew, was called-up for service just after their marriage but they were blessed with a daughter and a son. Margaret was widowed early (in her early 60's) but this did not stop her from enjoying her life as best she could. We all knew the cheery Margaret—always had a smile on her face and loved talking to people. She had such a lovely, calm nature.

Margaret gave much to the game of curling and she will be sorely missed.





High Road winners of the John Campbell Trophy for the second successive year. From left—Lorna Gray, Isobel Forrest, Ene Smith and Margaret Somerville.

"HAMILTON LADIES"

Great Fight-Back by Isobel Forrest

IN one of the best ladies' finals ever seen at Hamilton, Isobel Forrest and her Lanark rink overcame the earlier's nightmare—the loss of a 5 at the first end—to score a memorable victory over Betty Law's powerful rink in the final of the Hamilton Ladies Open Championship this month.

A courageous fight-back, accomplished by high-quality play, brought Isobel back to "peels" at the last end. At the extra-end, Betty Law failed by two inches to draw with her last stone and the Lanark rink won a game they will always remember 12-10.

In the Low Road final, the experience of Jean McIntosh's Kirkcaldy team told in the end—the last end—against Christine Drysdale's Lesmahagow rink who were playing in only their second competition. One up going to the final end, Jean scored 4 for a 12-7 win.

A feature of the 64-rink event was the representative nature of the last-eight stage in both competitions, rinks from Falkirk, Hamilton, Glasgow, Ayr, Edinburgh, Kelso and Roxburgh contesting the High Road and teams from Glasgow, Hamilton, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Kirkcaldy, Dumfries and Ayr playing in the Low Road.

Joan McGregor, wife of the President of Lanarkshire Ice Rink C.C., presented the Campbell Cup (High Road) and May Dick Trophy (Low Road). The High Road runners-up were Betty Law, Jessie Young, Bea Dodds and Emily Tait. The Low Road winners were Jean McIntosh, A. Catto, I. Abernethy and C. Noble—and the runners-up, Christine Drysdale, Moira Hamilton, Sarah Lamb and Margaret Carruthers.



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I NEED SOME NEWS AND STORIES!!!!

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