

NEWSLETTER
December 2010

We are already half way through the season, which after a halting start when the ice plant required repair has produced a more consistant quality of surface.

Ice Rink Future

As I'm sure you are aware, rumours of all kinds abound concerning the future of the Leasure Centre Ice facility in relation to the budget problems being faced by Moray Council. At this stage, no firm information is to hand, and is unlikely to become known until the Council fixes its budget early in the new year. However, I can assure you that the Council and the Leisure Centre have been written to by various persons and bodies expressing the concerns of all the ice users, and a sub-committee of the Province has been established to examine, along with other users, possible strategies against any potential reduction in this facility. As and when more concrete information becomes available this will be passed on to you. In the meantime, there will be no change for the rest of this season, and when it comes time for me to issue an invitation to you for competition entries for next season, this will be on the presumption that the status quo will maintain unless we hear to the contrary before then.

Club Competitions :-

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have appeared as substitutes in various games, for your support of the teams involved, to allow the matches to proceed as planned. Your help is much appreciated.

In the **Falconer**, the two leagues were won by Douglas Howie and Rob Tyson, the latter qualifying by dint of ends-won over Graham Grant's rink. The successful teams will contest the final on 4th January at 7.00 pm.

The **Club Bonspiel** was successfully held on 20th November thanks to the organisation of John Downie and the chashing up of potential participants by Helen Downie.



The good turnout of eight teams took part, five from Elgin, one each from Moray Firth Ladies and Moray Juniors, and one an amalgum of Elgin and Bank of Scotland. In the event, the team of Kenny Oswald. Greta More, John Paul Downey and Dorothy Duncan secured the Strang Trophy, and prizes very kindly supplied by Ian and Sheena Yeats.

The **SMD League** was a closely fought affair - Brian Cantlay, Edwin Dodson, Mike Pickthall and Kenny Oswald coming out on top, a point ahead of Douglas Howie, Jim Farquhar, Roberta Walker and Hilda Fulton

		PLAYED	WON	PEELED	LOST	ENDS WON	SHOTS DIFF	SHOTS SCORED	POINTS
A	B CANTLAY	5	3	1	1	19	6	36	7
B	D HOWIE	5	3	0	2	14	-6	27	6
C	G GRANT	5	2	0	3	14	4	33	4
D	R STEWART	5	2	0	3	15	-3	25	4
E	O GRIGOR	5	2	0	3	16	-10	26	4
F	CTAYLOR	5	2	1	2	18	9	33	5

Of the remaining club competitions, along with the **Falconer final** on Tuesday 4th January, the **Club KO** competition gets underway with the preliminary round on Tuesday 11th January, the **McNeill Club League** on Tuesday 18th January, the **Club Pairs** on Tuesday 25th January (when Kenny Oswald's team will also be in action, in the Province KO Final) , and the **Macallan Bonspiel** on Saturday 5th March. Good luck to all competitors.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding any of our events please pass them on to Douglas Howie (dhowie@live.co.uk) or any committee member so that any proposals to increase uptake can be included in next year's programme.

Province leagues

Here, Elgin teams are again meeting with varying fortunes. In Division 1 Kenny Oswald lies in fourth place, while Douglas Howie leads the way in Division 2. Division 3 sees Brain Cantley's Rotary rink in front, with Alistair Grant poised to progress upwards from the foot of the table. In the Elgin packed Division 4, Rob Tyson, Andrew Allardyce and Graham Grant occupy the top three spots, with Bob Stewart supporting the table.

Province Open KO

As mentioned above, Kenny Oswald's rink have once again made their way successfully to the final, where they will meet Bill Jaffrey's Fochaber rink.

Best wishes for success to all these teams in their remaining matches.

Coaching Report

The Moray Province Coaching and Development Group are continuing efforts to expand the playing base across the Province. During the year the Committee meets regularly to plan the season and is extremely grateful to all the coaches and helpers who assist with newcomers, junior training, bonspiels and Come & Try sessions.

If anyone is interested in helping either on or off the ice please contact Morag Cumming on 01343 559478 or email moragacumming@gmail.com.

The regular coaching sessions are:

Curling's Cool-----Wednesday mornings, times vary but usually between 10am – 11am.

Junior Club-----Wednesday evenings 5.30pm – 6.45pm

Adult coaching-----Monday evenings 5pm – 6.45pm

In addition there can be one-off Come & Try sessions for community groups or corporate bodies.

A number of the adult learners are being encouraged to join clubs and Elgin CC has provided application forms to several potential new recruits. If anyone is interested in taking part in informal games to meet and provide extra match practice for newcomers please again contact Morag Cumming.

Nairn Annual Dinner

We have received an invitation to our male made curlers to attend Nairn Curling Club's Annual Dinner, which in past years has proved to be a most enjoyable evening. This time it will be held at 7.00 for 7.30 pm in the Newton Hotel, Nairn on Saturday 15th February 2011 with the guest of honour being Mr Robbie Scott, President of the RCCC. Cost is £35.00 per head, and those wishing to attend are reminded to let Mike Pickthall know before 10th January, enclosing a cheque made out to "Nairn Curling Club". Well worth the money, I would suggest.

Finally, a Good Chrstmas and Good Curling in the New Year to all of you,

Douglas.