



# ANNUAL REPORT

**2016-2017**

**THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB**

The National Governing Body for Scottish Curling

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**Photo on the front cover:**  
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## RCCC OFFICIALS

*A company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital  
Registered in Scotland under Company Number SC232571*

FOUNDED 1838

### **Patron**

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

### **Honorary Members**

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH  
G ROY SINCLAIR (St Martins)

### **President**

CLIVE THOMSON (Glasgow Academicals)

### **Vice President**

JIM CULLEN (Earlston)

### **Board of Directors**

ALASTAIR MACNISH (Gourock)	Chairman
BRUCE CRAWFORD (Abbotsford Curling Society)	Chief Executive Officer
CLIVE THOMSON (Glasgow Academicals)	President
GRAEME ADAMS (Reform)	Director
HELEN HALLY (Craigielands)	Director
GREIG HENDERSON (Haddo House)	Director
ROBIN NIVEN (Delvine)	Director
DAVID HARDIE (Crocketford)	Director

### **Past President**

BILLY HOWAT (Cumnock & District)

### **Chaplain**

REV ALAN DONALDSON (Cadder)

### **Other Officials & Advisors**

#### **Legal Advisers**

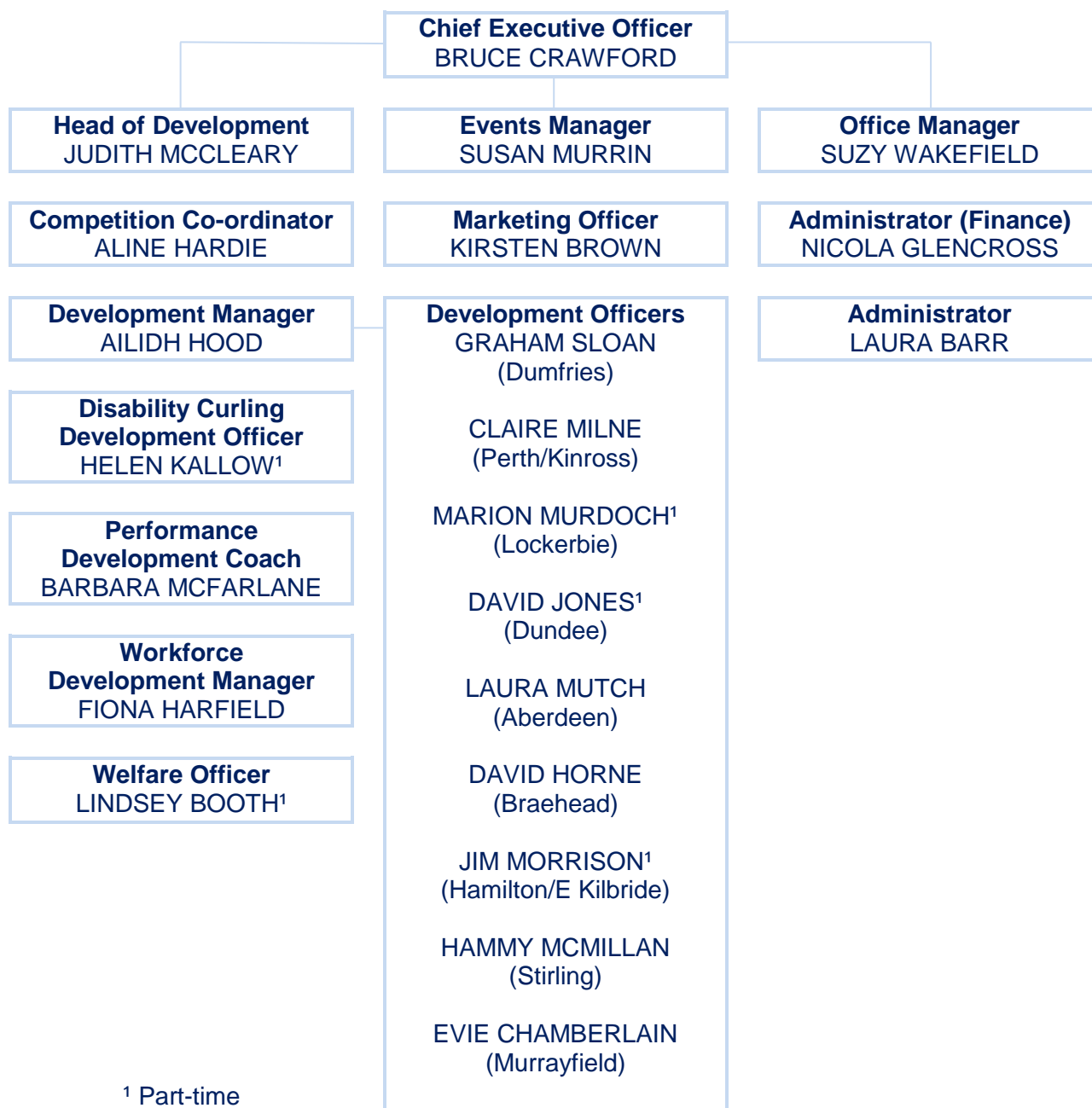
Harper Macleod LLP  
Brodies LLP

#### **Independent Accountants**

Drummond Laurie Chartered Accountants



## HEADQUARTERS STAFF & CURLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS



## MEMBERSHIP

### Current Membership

640 Affiliated Local Clubs  
12,069 Registered Members

### New Clubs

Dundee University Student  
Gryffe High School  
Land O' Burns  
Stirling Ice Rink Senior Ladies  
Tongland (re-admitted)

### Resigned Clubs

Belmont October Ladies  
Kilbarchan  
Newtonmore

## AWARDS & MEDALS

### Clubs that have completed 150 years continuous affiliation

St Martin's Curling Club

### Members who have been awarded 50 year medals

William Neilson (Avondale Heather)  
Alan Muat (Balruddery)  
Alan Lauder (Broomhall)  
Hon. David Bruce (Broomhall)  
George McQueen (Cambo, St Andrews)  
Leslie Ingram-Brown (Carmunnock & Rutherglen)  
Albert Rae (Dunfermline)  
Harry Johnston (Falkirk, Falkirk Ice Rink)  
John Morren (Huntly)  
Helen Bell (Johnstone & District)  
William Mitchell (Kelso, Greenlaw)  
Jack Duncan (Kilsyth)  
Jessma Lindsay (Kirriemuir & District Ladies)  
John A.C. Clark (Leven)  
Janette Sloan (Loch Connel)  
Hew Drummond (Logan)  
Joy Niven (Lynedoch Ladies)  
Jim Cannon (Merchiston)  
D. Harold Forrester (Nairn)  
Sinclair Aitken (Pitkerro, Broughty Ferry)  
T.M Jobson (Raith & Abbotshall)  
H.C Page (Raith & Abbotshall)  
Margaret Porteous (Threave Ladies)

## Teams who have been awarded Eight-ENDER Awards

Team (Club)	Played At	Competition
Preston King, Kirsty Robertson, Alan Branch, Ian Bone (all Cardross)	Greenacres Curling	King
<i>Sandy Anderson (Laurencekirk), Erika Mitchell (Laurencekirk), Winnie Gillespie (Rubislaw), Bob Mitchell (Laurencekirk)</i>	<i>Curl Aberdeen</i>	<i>DF Communications Super League – Div. C</i>
Colin Campbell, Dan Champion (both Pitkerro)	Forfar Indoor Sports	Pitkerro Pairs
<i>John Laverty, Donald McLaren, Robert Cornwell, Bob Park (all Helensburgh)</i>	<i>Braehead Curling Rink</i>	<i>David Duncan</i>
Irene Baillie, Helen Gordon, Yvonne Wardrope, Sandra Ritchie (all Dunfermline Ladies)	Kinross Curling Rink	Kinross Ladies Super League

## IN MEMORIAM

### In alphabetical order by Club:

John McKerrow (Abercorn)  
 George Chisholm (Aberlady)  
 John Jardine (Applegarth and Sibbaldbie)  
 David Murdoch (Auchenames)  
 Peter McLean (Auchenames)  
 Dennie Johnston (Ayr St. Columba)  
 Bunty Howden (Balcaskie)  
 Peter Howden (Balcaskie)  
 Tom Wardlaw (Balcaskie)  
 Evelyn McDade (Bank of Scotland, Glasgow)  
 John Jackson (Biggar)  
 Andrew Nisbet (Cambo)  
 Patrick Blease (Carr-bridge)  
 Alexander Watson (Catherthun)  
 Peter Wright (Chirnside)  
 Mary Laird (Club unknown)  
 William Dick (Clunie)  
 Dennis Strother (Coldstream and Hirsell)  
 Bobby Houston (Cupar)  
 Ian Baxter (Delvine)  
 Gifford Rickard (Denny (Inc. Denny LP))  
 Raye Rickard (Denny (Inc. Denny LP))  
 John Short (Dollar and Devon Vale)  
 Marion Couper (Dun)  
 Roderick MacLennan (Dundonald)  
 Ian Clark Borland (Dunfermline)  
 Marion King (East Kilbride & Haremyres)  
 Elizabeth Baird (East Kilbride & Haremyres)  
 David Young (Edinburgh Academics)  
 Ian A Campbell (Edinburgh Medical)  
 Donald Easson (Edinburgh Rotary)

D Arnot (Evenie Water)  
Jimmy Lindsay (Forret)  
Betty Thom (Fossoway Ladies)  
Janet Beenham (Fossoway Ladies)  
David Dandie (Fothringham)  
J Warden (Fothringham)  
Tony Black (Giffnock)  
Brian Lilley (Giffnock)  
Jim Frew (Glasgow and District Rotary)  
Ian Cameron (Glasgow XX)  
James Bolster (Gourock)  
John Fleming (Greenlaw)  
Tom Gibson (Hamilton and Thornyhill)  
P McPherson (Heart of the Highlands)  
Jenny Reekie (Hercules)  
Lucy Fleming (Hercules Ladies)  
John Murrekk (Holyrood)  
Robert Stewart (Howwood)  
Roger Hoskins (Inverness)  
Elma Ker (Irvine)  
Ronald Brook (Kennoway)  
Nett Dow (Kilsyth Ladies)  
Diane Milone (Kingsmills)  
Doris McQueen (Kirkpatrick-Durham)  
Ronald Wardhaugh (Lammermuir)  
Jim Forrest (Lanark)  
Tom McGregor (Lesmahagow)  
N Bell (Lundie and Auchterhouse)  
E Hynd (Lundie and Auchterhouse)  
Betty White (Lynedoch Ladies)  
Harry Russell (Midcalder)  
Graham Kerr (Nairn)  
Margaret Isaac (Nairn Ladies)  
Rita Stark (New Monklands)  
Michael Dunlop (Penninghame)  
Alex Farrell (Portpatrick)  
John Gray (Raith & Abbotshall)  
John H Campbell (Raith & Abbotshall)  
Drummond Jackson (Score and Perth)  
Robert Forsyth (St Boswells)  
Elizabeth McDowall (Stranraer Ice Rink)  
Alex Kyle (Stranraer Ice Rink)  
Stephen Holden (Strathendrick)  
Molly Kinnaird (Thornton)  
Angus MacDonald (Torness)  
John McEwan (University of Dundee)  
Bertha Peace (West Stirlingshire Ladies)

## REPORTS

### Board

*Alastair MacNish (Chair) and Bruce Crawford (CEO)*

Having reached the mid-point of the 2015-2019 Strategy, we can report that good progress has been made against the long term targets for the organisation. Of the eight long term targets for 2015-2019, four are already achieved in the areas of Coaching, Performance, Development Audit and Equality. The other four targets relate to Olympic and Paralympic results which will be known in 2018, and membership numbers for juniors and adults in 2019.

There will be a huge amount of interest on the back of the winter Olympic and Paralympic games in 2018, and the RCCC development team are putting plans in place to capitalise on this frenzy of interest and we hope all of our members will help to encourage new people to come to curling and become passionate about the game.

Supporting our facilities remains a priority and in this last year saw the re-opening of the Inverness Ice Rink following significant refurbishment that included, floor, plant and energy saving measures. Planning is now underway for the same type of support to be negotiated for Murrayfield Curling Rink. This summer will see the completion of the new National Curling Academy at The Peak in Stirling. This has been an ambition for the sport for the last fifteen years and we look forward to seeing the new facility coming to fruition and providing curling for people of all ages and abilities throughout the year. Work is ongoing to secure a long-term solution for headquarters accommodation and the board are encouraged by the interest shown by Stirling Council to support potential partnerships that will benefit the RCCC.

The ongoing partnership with British Curling continues to deliver results on the world stage with particular success this last season with the British Men's team being successful at the World University Games. The two organisations are working together to review how they may both be able to benefit from an increase in collaboration through new initiatives.

We are delighted to see six individual RCCC members put themselves forward for elections for directors. This is hugely encouraging that so many members are interested in committing to the good governance of the sport and are prepared to give up their time to contribute to the future growth and development of curling by joining the board of directors.

The staff and volunteers continue to achieve a great deal with the limited resources available to the RCCC. The game of curling continues to contribute to communities across the country in both sporting and social dimensions, and we aim to keep the sport evolving and developing through our stewardship at all levels.

### Club and Member Development

*Ailidh Hood (Development Manager)*

The RCCC has 640 Curling clubs across Scotland, with a total of 12,069 members. 11,055 of these are adult members and 1014 are junior members.

A new Membership Development Committee was formed this season bringing together appointed members who represent the future demographic of the RCCC Membership.

This committee will;

- Influence future local and national curling development programmes that bring new players into the sport



- Create ideas for development, designed to increase and retain members in the sport
- Develop links with partnership organisations that work with specific demographic groups
- Enhance the curling experience for all members

The RCCC Curling Development Officer regional team has seen some changes throughout this season with some additions and a retirement. We welcome Evie Chamberlain to Murrayfield Curling Rink in her new role as the Marketing & Development Manager and Helen Kallow to the RCCC Office in her role as Disability Curling Development Officer. Marion Murdoch will be retiring from her role at Lockerbie as Curling Development Officer at the end of the season, Marion has been a great asset over the years and has played a massive part in the development of Curling throughout Scotland.

## Development of Curlers

### Junior

Ice rinks, Development Officers and Development Groups have worked closely with Active Schools and local schools to provide our Curling's Cool School programme to Primary 6 & 7 pupils. Throughout season 2016-2017 we had 3743 school pupils participating in Curling's Cool. These young people following completion of a Curling's Cool block were offered further opportunities to continue participation in Curling in their area, such as afterschool clubs.

20 ice rinks have used our Skill Awards resource to further develop their junior curlers during season 2016-2017. A total of 232 awards have been given out this season;

Level	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Blue	White	Red
Number	4	15	13	52	42	106

The European Curling Championships held in Braehead in November 2016, provided a great platform to develop a legacy strategy following on from the event. Allowing us to capitalise on the high-profile event, showcase curling at elite level and most importantly use it as a hook to bring in some new young people to the sport. Throughout the championships, we had 51 schools bring over 2000 young people to Braehead Arena from across Scotland.

These schools and young people were then part of a further engagement plan which offered them bespoke school opportunities for their area to get further involved in curling. These opportunities included signing up for a Curling's Cool block, hosting one off curling introductory sessions and invites to the local junior club.

The RCCC Summer Junior Camp hosted 48 young people for an action-packed week long residential camp in Stirling, July 2016. The camp allowed junior curlers to improve their on-ice skills while having fun and there was lots of positive feedback; '*Summer Camp is AWESOME*'.

### Adult

To support the development of members across Scotland, the RCCC worked in partnership with development groups, areas, provinces, ladies' centres and clubs to offer coaching sessions, events and workshops. Throughout season 2016-2017 RCCC held seminars on topics such as; sweeping, mixed doubles, tactics and ladies specific coaching days.

A successful RCCC Adult Camp was held in Stranraer at North West Castle Hotel in September 2016, with 28 people attending and enjoying the opportunity to enhance their game, have fun and meet new people!

### Partnerships

Development Officers and Development Groups across Scotland have been working hard this season to further develop curling in their ice rinks. The RCCC has worked with local partners to

secure funding for posts and provide financial incentives for development groups working hard to achieve key objectives.

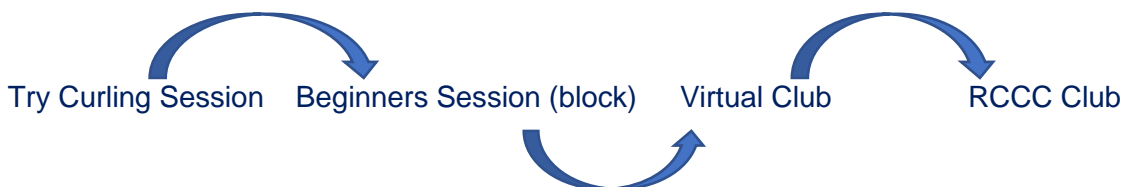
The RCCC has created a partnership with Scottish Student Sport to work on further increasing student curling opportunities and support Student Curling Clubs. The RCCC will be hosting its first 'Student Training Day' in May 2017 with the intention to upskill and improve communication links with student curling clubs.

The Scottish Wheelchair Curling Association (SWCA) has formed a close working relationship with the RCCC which will be further developed with our new Disability Curling Development Officer coming into post.

### Try Curling

Try Curling has proved again to be a vital programme in supporting ice rinks to engage with and recruit in new members.

We have identified that best success through Try Curling sessions for retaining participants in the sport is when they have followed a pathway structure which is clearly laid out in advance. Here is the suggested pathway for Try Curling Participants.



This year we advertised 285 Try Curling sessions, including specific junior, student, stick delivery & wheelchair sessions with 878 new participants attending throughout the season.

Looking ahead to next season we are excited to be launching our 'Olympic Season Try Curling' initiative which will support ice rinks throughout the season to run Olympic Try Curling sessions. The RCCC will provide ice rinks with support on how to run successful sessions and increase retention.

The RCCC will be running a financial incentive for ice rinks who participate in our Olympic Try Curling programme for season 2017-2018. The aim of our incentive is to encourage ice rinks to proactively advertise and run successful Try Curling sessions and start newcomers on the pathway to membership.

The Winter Olympics are running from 9-25 February 2018, and the Winter Paralympics from 8-18 March 2018, with curling being the only sport competing daily;

Mixed Doubles	8-13 February
Men's:	14-25 February
Women's:	14-25 February
Wheelchair:	8-18 March

We are offering a financial incentive for the full season to allow the 'Olympic Hype' to build up but we do anticipate a spike during and straight after the games.

We are advising that ice rinks consider the potential for a high demand to 'Try Curling' during and immediately after the Olympics and would highlight **17 February to 11 March** as a key window to increase your Try Curling sessions available.

## **Disability** - Helen Kallow, Disability Curling Development Officer

There are many successful disability curling groups taking part across the country, huge thanks to the dedicated and enthusiastic coaches and other volunteers who deliver this. Next season will hopefully see an increase in the accessibility of curling.

Shortage of players and coaches is common to many of the wheelchair curling clubs, so after consultation with clubs, some of the things planned for the coming season are:

- Introduction to Wheelchair Curling course to enable more coaches to expand their skills into this area
- Advanced Wheelchair Curling – to enable current coaches to develop so players can advance
- A Talent Identification Day in conjunction with Scottish Disability Sport to look for wheelchair athletes who have the potential to becoming Paralympic wheelchair curling medal winners.
- Seminar on Recruiting Disabled people into Wheelchair Curling

A partnership with the Forth Valley Sensory Centre will help to deliver an updated Introduction to Visually Impaired Curling course, with a view to having at least two new clubs for people with a visual impairment and to increase the potential for competition for visually impaired curlers as more people take up the sport. New resources will help deaf/hearing impaired people access information about curling, to encourage more uptake of curling. New resources will also help all coaches develop confidence in working with curlers with a learning disability or autistic spectrum disorders to develop their potential. Curling-specific Disability Inclusion training in conjunction with Scottish Disability Sport will help all coaches confidently plan inclusive sessions.

Awareness raising, support and training will encourage coaches to see that they already possess most of the technical skills and knowledge to coach disabled people. This will mean more people can benefit from taking part in the sport of curling to achieve their personal goals.

## **Coaching & Workforce**

*Giles Lomax (Coaching & Workforce Development Manager)*

There have been a number of key successes in order to secure the development of Coaching & Officiating in Scotland. Headline figures include:

- 4 x UKCC Level 1 courses delivered (Perth, Murrayfield, Kilmarnock, Borders)
- 1 x UKCC Level 2 courses (Borders)
- 4 x Skill Award workshops (metallic & colours)
- 6 x Safeguarding & Protecting Children workshops
- 1 x Positive Coaching Scotland workshop
- 2 x Introduction to Coaching Wheelchair Curling
- 1 x Stick Delivery Workshop
- 1 x Introduction to Umpiring
- 1 x Umpiring refreshers course

One of the most successful initiatives was the introduction of an on-ice element (2hrs) to the Level 1 course. Within this the tutors reaffirm the 'How to coach' skills along with using technology such as lasers. In addition, each coach now has the opportunity to deliver a micro-coaching session which will go towards their accreditation paperwork. This allows candidates to put the theoretical part of the course into practice.

- 2 x new tutors engaged in delivering Coach Education
- 72 x Level 1 coaches have completed their logbook paperwork and have been registered & resulted with the SQA for UKCC Level 1 certification.
- 11 x Level 2 coaches have completed their logbook paperwork and have been registered & resulted with the SQA for UKCC Level 2 certification.
- An accurate workforce of active coaches has been determined – 618 across Scotland (as of Feb 2017).

In addition: -

- The RCCC secured £4,414 of UKCC funding to subsidise coach education courses reducing the cost of the course to the candidates by up to 70%.
- Achieved 55% in the sportscotland Coaching Scorecard. The initial target was 35% by March 2016 and 50% by March 2019. Due to the RCCC reaching this target in its first year, we must now maintain it for the next 3 years.
- The new OneFile system was launched as part of the UKCC Level 2 coaching qualification; this replaces the coaching logbooks.

A volunteer framework was successfully delivered for the 2016 Le Gruyère European Curling Championship at Braehead. 177 volunteers covered a variety of roles which resulted in a well-received championship.

In September 2016, the RCCC held a Coaching & Development Conference at the Green Hotel, Kinross. Held over two days the sessions were split with development on the Saturday and coaching on Sunday. Working with Victoria Clark (Active Advantage) we delivered the sportscoach UK CPD workshop 'How to coach engaging sessions Adults'. This was then followed by a two hour on-ice up-skilling session facilitated by Tony Zummack (Head of Coaching, British Curling), David Ramsay (Performance Development Coach) and Claire Milne (Curling Development Officer).

Thank you to the many people who contribute to the success of the RCCC; without the support of our existing volunteer coaching and officiating workforce it would be impossible to run our competitions, development groups, coaching programmes and club activities. Your continued help and support is very much appreciated.

### Projects for 2017-2018 season

- Create an Introduction course: **Ready Steady Curl!** This will formalise the existing 'on-ice helpers' and allow for them to have engaged with the RCCC in a formal manner. This course can also be used for school children to help with sessions. Not to be confused with a 'coaching' course, the content will focus on making existing helpers officially 'safe'.
- Disability focus – Inclusive Curling, 'Curlability', Integrated Coach Education that upskills coaches with additional knowledge outside of specific Wheelchair Curling. Work will be undertaken alongside Heather Loudon at SDS and Helen Kallow, RCCC Disability Curling Development Officer.
- Coaching & Legacy Conference 2017 – September
  - Plans for the lead up to the 2018 Winter Olympics Games.
  - Mixed Doubles format – educating our coaches
  - Other topics to be determined

## Competitions

*Aline Hardie (Competition Coordinator)*

The RCCC aims to organise quality domestic and international competitions at all levels and for curlers of all abilities.

Over the 2016-2017 season the RCCC has delivered competitions for grassroots curlers and clubs, and at national level, providing opportunities for the whole membership. Changes to the 2017 Scottish Curling Championships calendar included the introduction of a Junior Mixed Doubles Championship and umpires assisting at all Scottish national events.

Competition	Venue	ENTRIES
<b>ASHAM Junior Slams</b>		
Asham Under 14 Slam	Forfar Indoor Sports, Stranraer Ice Rink, intu Braehead, Murrayfield Ice Rink.	16 x 4 = 64
Asham Under 17 Slam - The Stevenson Trophy	Lockerbie	24
Asham Under 17 Slam	Lanarkshire	24
Asham Under 17 Slam - The Baljaffray Trophy	Greenacres	24
Asham Under 17 Slam	Forfar Indoor Sports	20
Asham Under 17 Slam	Dewars Centre	24
Asham Under 21 Slam - Greenacres Junior Masters	Greenacres	12 (M) 9 (W)
Asham Under 21 Slam - Kinross Junior Classic	Kinross Curling	12 (M) 8 (W)
Asham Under 21 Slam - Inverness Junior International	Inverness	10 (M) 8 (W)
Asham Under 21 Slam - Lockerbie Junior Invitation	Lockerbie	10 (M) 8 (W)
<b>Development and Club</b>		
Skill Awards Challenge	Dewars Centre (Perth)	16
Scottish Junior Curling Club Challenge Div. 1 & 2	Murrayfield	6 + 6
Scottish Junior Curling Club Challenge Div. 3	Ayr	6
Scottish Schools Curling Championship	Local Qualifiers intu Braehead	47
Funspiel Finals	Dumfries Ice Bowl	12 (U13) 12 (U15)
National Virtual Club Challenge	intu Braehead	16
Newcomers	Greenacres Individual entries.	48
Scottish Province Championship	Greenacres	27
Double Rink Championship	Stranraer	6
Henderson Bishop Trophy	Local Qualifiers Kinross	114 24
The Rink Championship	Local Qualifiers Forfar Indoor Sports	115 24
The Morton Trophy	Local Qualifiers Kirkcaldy	12
The Maxwell Trophy	Local Qualifiers Murrayfield	10



Scottish Curling Pairs Championship	Stranraer	24
Wheelchair Pairs	Intu Braehead	10
Wheelchair British	Lanarkshire Ice Rink	6
<b>National Competitions</b>		
European Playdowns	Dewars Centre (Perth)	4 (M) 3 (W)
Scottish Curling Junior Mens Championship - Qualifiers	Dewars Centre (Perth)	12
Scottish Curling Junior Men's Championship	Curl Aberdeen	8
Scottish Curling Junior Women's Championship	Curl Aberdeen	7
Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles Championship	intu Braehead	8
Scottish Curling Mens Championship	Dewars Centre (Perth)	10
Scottish Curling Women's Championship	Dewars Centre (Perth)	8
Scottish Curling Mixed Championship	Curl Aberdeen	8
Scottish Curling Mixed Senior Championship	Stranraer	12
National Master Men's Curling Championship - Qualifiers	Greenacres	30
Scottish Curling Senior Men's Championship - Qualifiers	Ayr & Forfar Indoor Sports	36
National Master Curling Championship	Greenacres	12 (M) 12 (W)
Scottish Curling Senior Championships	Lanarkshire	12 (M) 12 (W)
Scottish Curling Junior Mixed Doubles (New for Season 16/17)	Intu Braehead	24
Scottish Curling Wheelchair Championships	The Peak	12

Competitions rely on the support of volunteer umpires and time clock operators and it is essential that RCCC continues to recruit new and develop existing umpires. Alan Stanfield and Colin Melrose delivered an extremely successful Advanced Umpires Course to 10 experience umpires in March. With 60 RCCC qualified umpires attending a refresher course in September, 16 of these Umpires represented Scotland internationally during season 2016-2017 at WCF Events.

It would be impossible to run these extremely successful competitions without the support of a great number of people and organisations; various committees (Competitions, Umpires, Rules and Performance), numerous Local Organising Committees, facilities and their staff, sponsors and the many volunteers who support RCCC competitions by umpiring, time- clocking, line scoring and reporting. Thank you to those involved for their continuing support.

#### **Projects for 2017-2018 season**

- Revision of RCCC competition bidding process and criteria
- Introduction of a World Playoff between the GB Olympic team and Scottish Curling Champions to determine who will represent Scotland at the World Championship (Las Vegas and Canada)

## Finance

*Bruce Crawford (CEO)*

This report provides commentary to the figures you will see in the RCCC's Annual Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2017.

The net position at the end of the year shows a deficit which is as a result of two significant items. The first item is the decision by the board to make a transfer of £75,000 to the Scottish Curling Trust, the arms-length charity, ring-fenced for future use in development and accommodation. This transfer is treated as a donation and will be spent on curling development in Scotland. The second item is the operation of the European Curling Championships at Braehead in November 2016 which made a loss. The event was a tremendous success in most of its objectives but three key contributing factors were lack of sponsorship, poor ticket sales and additional cost of dehumidification. The net result was a cost to RCCC of £75,000. Lessons have been learned from this event and changes have already been made to the delivery model that was used to manage the future events.

Excluding these two exceptional items, this financial year has been well managed by those responsible within RCCC and the net position would have been a small surplus of £9,266. However the annual accounts show all transactions for the year and the deficit for the year was £140,734 after taxation.

Looking at the figures for the year related to normal business, the income was down by 10.7% from the previous year while expenditure (cost of sales) was also down by 10.7%.

A few items worthy of comment are that the figure for debtors has increased from £33,320 to £107,142 in the main part is due to a £50,000 loan arrangement for Inverness Ice Centre, with a corresponding amount appearing in creditors which is the loan of this amount to the World Curling Federation. The loan figures will not affect the balance sheet as they balance each other out.

There is also a significant fall in the figure for cash at bank, which is down by £684,000 which is mainly due to the early receipt of sportscotland grant last year and it did not arrive in our bank till the new financial year this May. This is also reflected in the other creditors where the 2016 figure included the sportscotland grant, inflating the total to £555,691.

The board of directors has opened the process for setting up a new Finance Committee, to focus on all financial matters at a strategic level, affecting the organisation. Nomination is open to all members and the formation of this new committee will be the responsibility of the new board after the AGM in June 2017.

A full analysis of the income and expenditure for the year will be provided in a visual format at the AGM and on the website.

## International Relations

*Bruce Crawford (CEO)*

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club is widely respected across the world and is regarded as the mother club of curling, having written the first rules of the game and introduced the sport to many other nations. The RCCC remains committed to playing an active role in the development of the sport within Scotland and across the world. The current international forum for discussion of future development of the game is the WCF Congress and the decision making takes place at the Annual General Assembly. In September 2016 these meetings were held in Stockholm and the Scottish representatives participated fully in the meetings. Changes to the WCF rules were approved and Scotland was the only nation to propose amendments and four of our five amendments were adopted.

The international research on brush head fabrics developed at a pace and Scottish players and coaches were involved in the process which has led to setting standards that ensure that games are determined on skill and strategy rather than equipment.

Since the last Congress, there has been an emerging debate on the format of world championship competitions, with the first principle being that such events should be comprised of the best teams in the world. Our reps have met with coaches, players and committees to get views from a range of perspectives and the consensus has been for the continuation of a round robin involving all teams. This will be further debated at the next WCF Congress and reported to our members in the autumn. Thanks to our representatives, those on the WCF Board and Commissions: Kate Caithness President of the WCF, Hew Chalmers Director of WCF, Bob Kelly WCF Rep, Susan Kesley WCF Rep, Bill Duncan WCF Rep, Bruce Crawford WCF Rep, Willie Nicoll member of the WCF Governance Commission, David Murdoch member of the WCF Athletes Commission.

## Marketing & Communications

*Kirsten Brown (Marketing Officer)*

The marketing team were involved in a wide variety of projects supporting all aspects of the RCCC's role across the whole season. This support included the area of membership services and data management, a long term project involving external facilitators and software providers with the aim of improving the RCCC's database systems and customer relationship management processes.

Further development of the RCCC branding included new resources for Seminars and Workshops, with posters and social media images being provided to ice rinks with a cohesive look. Marketing also worked closely with the Welfare Officer to produce new RCCC-specific documents for both our Child Protection Policy and Adult Protection Policy – the adult version being one of the first of its kind in Scotland. All attendees on the RCCC Safeguarding and Protecting Children course now receive a copy of the printed Child Protection Policy and both policies are available on the RCCC website. After the success of these documents, the marketing department then went on to work closely with the Coaching & Workforce Development Manager to produce new user-friendly Coaching Level 1 booklets. The ongoing development and growth of this design project will continue on to the next season. Again, all Level 1 Coaching Course attendees are provided with their own copy of the booklet.

Extensive support was provided to events throughout the season with the 2016 European Curling Championships dominating the first half. The Marketing Manager was appointed to lead the Marketing group in the 2015-2016 season. The role involved working with key partners to devise and disseminate awareness raising campaigns and drive volunteer recruitment and ticket sales, the marketing manager also attended the organising committee meetings. The marketing team lead on a social media campaign and were responsible for all branding and design related to the Championships.

The second half of the season was dominated by national championships, particularly the Scottish Curling Championships. A successful ticketing campaign utilising member communications, social media, ice rinks, competitions and discount promotions ensured that ticket sales were once again high. Marketing collateral was used to enhance the event including information screens, programmes, display stands, directional signage and advertising boards.

Personnel changes in the marketing department saw Stuart McLean leave the role of Marketing Manager at the RCCC.

## **Communications**

Communication continues to centre on competitions with comprehensive reporting of RCCC events a primary focus. It has become clear that our members are becoming more reliant on fast reporting from curling events, with our social media platforms seeing steady growth in followers; the RCCC Facebook page has seen an increase of almost 50% in the number of followers over the past year.

Exposure was given to independent curling competitions in Scotland and abroad where Scottish teams are competing to encourage spectator engagement and support for teams. Investment in external media resources for World Championships ensured authoritative coverage and timely reporting of Scotland's representatives on the international stage.

A continued investment in commissioning new photography provided wider visual coverage of events, with images supporting other marketing collateral and promotion throughout the season. This collection of images will provide promotional resources for future campaigns.

BBC Sport Scotland continued to be broadcast partner for the Scottish Curling Championships, providing live streaming of the Championship Finals as well as delivering two one hour highlights programmes on BBC Two Scotland and BBC iPlayer.

Subscription of the RCCC member ezine *Your Curler* grew to over 10,700 and this remains an important method of communication with eight issues per season. A change to the publication schedule has seen four issues of *Your Curler* released before Christmas and four after – providing coverage of the period between September to April, more accurately reflecting the curling season. Exclusive pre-sale ticket offers were included this year for Scottish and European Championships, adding value to this member benefit.

## **Performance**

*Barbara McFarlane (Performance Development Coach)*

*David Ramsay (Maternity Cover June - April)*

Performance Foundation and the RCCC Academy programme are Scottish development programmes supported by the RCCC and the British Curling performance programme. Support is provided to athletes/teams that are fully committed to a development programme with the prospect and ultimate outcome of being able to medal at world level.

### **Performance Foundation**

Twelve men (2 teams; Team Bryce, WUG Team Mouat, and 3 individuals Duncan Menzies, Angus Dowell and Ruairidh Greenwood), and 11 women (2 teams; WUGS Team Aitken, Team Jackson, and 2 individuals Claire Hamilton and Hazel Smith) were supported through the Performance Foundation. Delivery of the programme was through weekly on-ice individual and team training. Athletes received additional support services through sportscotland by individualised strength and conditioning programmes, nutrition, sports psychology and performance lifestyle advice.

### **The RCCC Academy**

A further 22 supported athletes formed the nucleus of the 10 Academy teams, 5 girls and 5 boys. The RCCC Academy Programme provided technical sessions (124 x 2hrs) at 5 venues: Perth; Stirling; Dumfries; Aberdeen and Braehead delivered by a team of 12 qualified RCCC coaches, and also provided workshops both Academy and British Curling (BC) led throughout the season. The athlete selection and team line-ups made by Barbara and BC were picked up by David Ramsay when he took over in June. A focus on coach development and opportunity was a top priority for David when considering the temporary role and finding and supporting coaches for the Academy teams and other teams on the fringe of the Academy the goal. All the RCCC Academy teams and teams Joiner and Craik now have a dedicated team coach, in many cases plucked from the RCCC coaching programme so ably developed by Giles Lomax. We hope many will continue to work with

these teams in future seasons. Further a group of 5 experienced coach mentors was set up to deliver support to these team coaches. The RCCC Academy programme enjoyed great support from Graeme Thompson and BC in supporting these coaches and mentors with their expenses being covered and workshops and tutorials being made available where possible.

### **World Championships**

Performances at the World University Games (Team Mouat Gold) and the World Juniors were very encouraging. Special mention to Cate Brewster and Team Jackson for successfully winning Gold and thus qualifying from the World B's in Östersund, and then going on to win the silver medal at the World A's the following month in South Korea. Team Bryce could only finish fourth in the Worlds, a disappointing result for them after such a dominant season in junior events.

### **Workshops**

The Asham U17 slam series was supported by a number of workshops on: changes to brushes and sweeping (Lockerbie); lifestyle and considering curling scholarship at Stirling University (Perth) and advice on parental support for competitors (Hamilton). In many cases delivered by the PDC or SIS specialists and very well attended with some 50 notes of interest for the Stirling scholarship programme following. This academic /curling programme was progressed by David Ramsay; Brown Ferguson (SIS), Raleigh Gowrie (Stirling University) beyond the pilot stage, and is now in a position to accept curling athletes for the next academic session.

A number of RCCC Academy teams also enjoyed tailored SAS delivered workshops presented by BC on team building, and the close links with BC and the RCCC Academy allowed dissemination of information to all.

The RCCC Academy also enjoyed access to summer ice courtesy of BC for the whole of August 2016 (during the BC Summer camp). This made a huge difference to the young players rubbing shoulders with big names and getting early technique and team sessions.

Further RCCC workshops were delivered to: Ladies Groups (Edinburgh) (Stirling); Adult sweeping seminars (Kirkcaldy) (Ayr) and to junior clubs at many venues. Topics such as: performance nutrition (Forfar and Hamilton); Curling delivery (Edinburgh, Kinross x 2, Dundee); Coach Tutorials (Dumfries) and an Academy Coach workshop at Kinross supported by Tony Zummack BC Head coach, were all delivered by the PDC with support from BC athletes and other coaches.

### **U21 Slams**

The successful teams at different stages of the Asham U21 slam series enjoyed incentives of playing in the EJCT Thun Switzerland; the Perth Masters; Aberdeen International and the Perth City Ladies. The cancellation of the ladies' event in Geneva was a disappointment and the 2 teams losing out were compensated by support in other ways.

### **Future**

Close links with BC, further cooperation with summer ice, and the use of the new performance centre at Stirling where ice sharing with the RCCC Academy and access for Academy athletes and coaches to analysis and upskilling will hopefully be possible, make this an exciting time in the performance arm of the RCCC/GB Programme. All this when combined with the Stirling Academic/Curling Scholarship promises a sound development programme for young motivated athletes.

## **Areas Standing Committee**

*Clive Thomson (RCCC President 2016-2017)*

The members of the Areas Standing Committee (ASC) have worked hard during the year to improve the relationship between the club's members', the ASC, the Provinces and the Board.



Following the reorganisation last year the new Areas have settled in well.

During the year the area representatives have reported on the work being done in their area at each meeting and shared best practice with their ASC colleagues which will be of benefit for the future of curling in Scotland.

The ASC was asked by the Competitions Committee to prepare a report on how the Provinces selected their teams for the Province Championship as this competition had suffered in recent years from last minute withdrawals. The report has resulted in a change to the format for next season which, it is hoped, will reduce withdrawals and restore the status of this important RCCC Championship.

At each of its meetings the ASC received a presentation from one of the RCCC Executives outlining their remit and responsibilities which enabled the area representatives to understand their roles and be able to respond to questions from the members.

During the season the ASC representatives attended many local and national competitions, often in their RCCC blue blazers, which helped to identify them as volunteer officials who could be approached for answers to any burning questions.

ASC representatives also sat on a number of RCCC Board committees including Performance, Competitions, Umpires, Club and Member Development, Coaching and Rules and reported back to the ASC, their Areas and Provinces.

## RESULTS OF NATIONAL & RCCC COMPETITIONS

### SCOTTISH CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men	(Stirling)	Runners-up:	(Murrayfield)
Winners:	David Murdoch Greg Drummond Scott Andrews Michael Goodfellow		Bruce Mouat Bobby Lammie Gregor Cannon Derek Sloan
Women	(Perth)	Runners-up:	(Lockerbie)
Winners:	Eve Muirhead Anna Sloan Vicki Adams Lauren Gray		Hannah Fleming Jennifer Dodds Alice Spence Vicky Wright

### SCOTTISH CURLING JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men	(Borders)	Runners-up:	(Dumfries)
Winners:	Cameron Bryce Robin Brydone Euan Kyle Frazer Shaw		Ross Whyte Callum Kinnear Ryan McCormack Duncan McFadzean
Women	(Dumfries)	Runners-up:	(Murrayfield)
Winners:	Sophie Jackson Naomi Brown Mili Smith Sophie Sinclair		Karina Aitken Rebecca Morrison Hailey Duff Laura Barr

### **SCOTTISH CURLING SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Men (Perth) (Stirling)  
Winners: Ian Drysdale Runners-up: Andrew Hemming  
Dave McQueen Billy Johnston  
Ronnie Wilson Neil Murray  
Graham Lindsay Steve Russell

Women (Aberdeen) (Stirling)  
Winners: Jackie Lockhart Runners-up: Jane McLaren  
Christine Cannon Jackie Craig  
Isobel Hannen Fiona MacFarlane  
Margaret Richardson Marjorie McCulloch

### **SCOTTISH CURLING WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winners: Jim Gault  
Debbie McKenna  
Tom Killin  
Jim Sellar

### **SCOTTISH CURLING MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winners: (Dumfries) Runners-up: (Hamilton)  
Grant Hardie Craig Waddell  
Rhiann Macleod Mili Smith  
Billy Morton Cameron Smith  
Barbara McFarlane Sophie Sinclair

### **SCOTTISH CURLING MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winners: Bruce Mouat Runners-up: Lee McCleary  
Gina Aitken Judith McCleary

### **SCOTTISH CURLING PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winners: (Greenacres) Runners-up: (Ayr)  
William Smith Neil Kennedy  
Wallace Gilbert Shaun Rennie

### **SCOTTISH CURLING SENIOR MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winners: (Stranraer) Runners-up: (Greenacres)  
Philip Wilson Ken Horton  
Kate Adams Dot Moran  
William Johnston David Ramsay  
Elspeth Johnston Liz Horton

### **SCOTTISH SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winners: (Perth High School) Runners-up: (Lockerbie Academy)  
Duncan McFadzean Ryan McCormack  
Leeanne McKenzie Angus Naysmith  
Matthew McKenzie Robbie McCormack  
Cameron Paterson Jake Beattie

### **NATIONAL MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Men (Borders) (Ayr)  
Winners: Keith Prentice Runners-up: Gavin Hamilton  
Lockhart Steel Euan Lawrence  
Jim Cullen Robert Wilson  
George Delgaty George McNaughton

Women (Greenacres)  
Winners: Elaine Semple  
Alison MacLennan  
Maggie Rutherford  
Sheila Cowan

(Border)  
Runners-up: Maggie Scott  
Yvonne Aitken  
Margaret White  
Fiona Rutherford

#### **ASHAM UNDER 21 SLAM**

Men (Dumfries)  
Winners: Ross Whyte  
Callum Kinnear  
Ryan McCormack  
Duncan McFadzean

Women (Moray)  
Winners: Amy MacDonald  
Amy Bryce  
Eilidh Yeats  
Layla Al-Saffar

#### **ASHAM UNDER 17 SLAM**

Slam (Perth)  
Winners: Callum Kinnear  
Ryan McCormack  
Duncan McFadzean  
Matthew McKenzie

Highest (Kinross)  
Women's  
Team: Beth Farmer  
Kirsten Bousie  
Katie McMillan  
Alexandra Macintosh

#### **ASHAM UNDER 14 SLAM**

Slam (Dumfries)  
Winners: Hamish Gallacher  
Scott Hyslop  
Jack Strawhorn  
Jack Carrick

Runners-up: (Stranraer)  
Robyn Munro  
Robbie Lyon  
Finlay Aldred  
Iona Irving

#### **HENDERSON BISHOP TROPHY**

Winners: (Murrayfield 2)  
Kerry Clark  
Gina Aitken  
Maggie Barry  
Betty Gibb  
Rebecca Kesley

Runners-up: (Stranraer)  
Kate Adams  
Christine Cannon  
Katie Wright  
Anne Wilson  
Jenni Cannon

#### **Cherrystone Trophy**

Low Road

Winners: (Murrayfield 1)  
Susan Kesley  
Jenny Barr  
Fran Stretton  
Morna Aitken

Runners-up: (Aberdeen)  
Kay Gibb  
Barbara Ogg  
Gun Remaji  
Carolyn Johnston

#### **DOUBLE RINK CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winners: Dunfermline

Runners-up: Suttieside

#### **MAXWELL TROPHY**

Winners: Ayr

Runners-up: Stranraer

#### **MORTON TROPHY**

Winners: Forfar

Runners-up: Kinross

#### **RINK CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winners: Perth 2  
(Airleywight)  
Kenny Kinnear

Runners-up: Aberdeen 1  
(Meldrum & Daviot)  
Scott Macleod

Callum Kinnear  
Duncan McFadzean  
David Brown  
Robin Brydone

Graeme Penny  
Maggie Wilson  
Simon Gibb

**SCOTTISH JUNIOR CURLING CLUB CHALLENGE  
JUNIOR CHALLENGE DIVISION 1**

Winners: Forfar A

Runners-up: Kinross A

**JUNIOR CHALLENGE DIVISION 2**

Winner: Stranraer A

Runners-up: Greenacres

**JUNIOR CHALLENGE DIVISION 3**

Winners: Dumfries

Runners-up: Stirling

**SCOTTISH PROVINCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winners: (Renfrewshire 12th)  
Reform  
Eric Richardson  
Doug Kerr  
Fraser Davidson  
Margaret Richardson

Runners-up: (Central)  
Keir  
Lee McCleary  
Judith McCleary  
Andrew McAughtrie  
Sarah Dobbie

Low Road

Winners: (Stirlingshire)  
Kilsyth  
John Davie  
Billy Johnston  
Neil Murray  
Katie Murray

Runners-up: (North Eastern)  
Turriff  
Steve Eddie  
Douglas Maxwell  
Ian Mennie  
Ryan Robertson

**SIR RICHARD WALDIE- GRIFFITH INTER-PROVINCE CUP**

Winners: Lanarkshire Province

**NEWCOMERS TROPHY**

Winners: (Dumfries)  
Jay Maxwell  
Callum McLain  
Magnus Ross  
Erin Furey

**FUNSPIEL – UNDER 13**

Winners: (Dumfries)  
Orrin Carson  
Logan Carson  
Archie Hyslop  
Charlie Gibb

**FUNSPIEL – UNDER 15**

Winners: (Dumfries)  
Nevin Harmjanz  
Finlay Kennedy  
Andrew Murray  
Ollie McLellan

### **NATIONAL VIRTUAL CLUB CHALLENGE**

Winners:	(Dundee)	Runners-up:	(Stirling)
	Neil Mackintosh		Ian Goldby
	Steven Lafferty		Archie McNee
	George Dewar		Sandra Taylor
	Ally Donald		Carol Kirkpatrick
	Jenni Lyall		

### **SKILL AWARDS CHALLENGE**

Winners:	(Stranraer)	Runners-up:	(Perth)
	Niall Ryder		Innes Chalmers
	Harry Glasgow		Iain Chalmers
	Finlay Aldred		Arran Thomson
	Rory Dodds		Tom Anderson



## ROLL OF HONOUR

### Players who represented Scotland and GB during the 2016-2017 season

#### WORLDS

##### 6th

David Murdoch  
Greg Drummond  
Scott Andrews  
Michael Goodfellow  
Ross Paterson

##### BRONZE

Eve Muirhead  
Anna Sloan  
Vicki Adams  
Lauren Gray  
Kelly Schafer

#### WORLD JUNIORS

##### 4th

Cameron Bryce  
Robin Brydone  
Euan Kyle  
Frazer Shaw  
Ross Whyte

##### SILVER

Sophie Jackson  
Naomi Brown  
Mili Smith  
Sophie Sinclair  
Laura Barr

#### WORLD WHEELCHAIR

##### BRONZE

Aileen Neilson  
Gregor Ewan  
Hugh Nibloe  
Robert McPherson  
Angie Malone

#### WORLD MIXED DOUBLES

##### 11th

Gina Aitken  
Bruce Mouat

#### WORLD SENIORS

##### 10th

Ian Drysdale  
Dave McQueen  
Ronnie Wilson  
Graham Lindsay  
Andrew Hemming

##### BRONZE

Jackie Lockhart  
Christine Cannon  
Isobel Hannen  
Margaret Richardson  
Janet Lindsay

#### WORLD MIXED

##### BRONZE

Cameron Bryce  
Katie Murray  
Bobby Lammie  
Sophie Jackson

#### EUROPEANS

##### 6th

Tom Brewster  
Glen Muirhead  
Ross Paterson  
Hamilton McMillan  
Duncan Menzies

##### BRONZE

Eve Muirhead  
Anna Sloan  
Vicki Adams  
Lauren Gray  
Kelly Schafer

#### WINTER UNIVERSIADE MEDALLISTS

##### GOLD

Bruce Mouat  
Bobby Lammie  
Gregor Cannon  
Derek Sloan  
Alasdair Schreiber

##### 4<sup>th</sup>

Gina Aitken  
Rowena Kerr  
Rachael Halliday  
Rachel Hannen  
Angharad Ward



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