



Welcome to the latest edition of our Coaches newsletter. I hope that you will find the articles informative and interesting.

We are nearing the end of another busy season, a momentous season, when our coaching Level 2 Technical Coach qualification achieved UKCC endorsement (see article below). My thanks, to National Coaching Officer, Lynne MacKenzie, for all her hard work and perseverance.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer and hope that you return next season refreshed and ready for an Olympic season with all the additional interest in our sport that it creates.

Yours in Curling
Albert Middler, Coaching Committee Convenor

Nominations are being sought for the 2013 Scottish Curling Awards

Grassroots Coach of the Year

The RCCC is looking for coaches who have made a significant contribution to the sport of curling at local level throughout the 2012-2013 curling season. A panel will assess all nominations and will shortlist three finalists. This award will go to the Grassroots Coach who attracts the most votes from the RCCC membership.

To be eligible to make a nomination you must be a member of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Nominees must also be members.

Nominations should be made online through the RCCC website and must be received by 22 April 2013.

PVG Scheme



Further training for RCCC signatories has been planned for the summer 13. Retrospective checking for current active coaches will commence following this training. Coaches will be contacted directly from the Royal Club to ascertain which type of PVG disclosure form they will require.

RCCC Technical Coach Qualification achieves UKCC endorsement.



After much work, the Royal Caledonian Curling Club finally achieved recognition and UKCC endorsement for the level 2, Technical Coach Qualification, in September.

The presentation of the certificate was honoured at received at the Coaches Gathering (see Article below).

The UKCC - managed by sports coach UK - maintains the standards of coaching qualifications across the UK by supporting, endorsing and continuously improving sports' coach-education programmes.

The UKCC does not take a one-size-fits-all approach and is implemented according to the specific characteristics of each sport. A UKCC endorsed coach education programme is developed by each governing body to meet the needs of its sport and sports coaches.

"The UKCC Journey" - Article by Ormond Smith



What was involved?

It had been recognized by the Royal Club that coaching within our sport had to be "upgraded" to put it on comparable levels with other sports. To achieve this, the Club had to formulate a Coaching structure which not only encompassed the existing courses but brought them forward. This required a re-think on how courses would be presented and the content therein.

Who was involved?

National Coaching Officer Lynne Mackenzie was tasked with the responsibility of setting up funding for this project and much of the work in formatting the structure of the Technical Coach Course was done in conjunction with both **sportscotland** and Sarah McQuade of ETC Consulting. With much of the updating in place it was realised that having achieved this, the project was within reach of gaining not only UKCC endorsement but also SQA accreditation and additional time and effort was spent with both UKCC and **sportscotland** to achieve this goal.

"sportscotland is delighted that RCCC has had their Level 2 coaching qualification endorsed by UKCC. This rewards the effort that Lynne MacKenzie and her team have made to provide the highest possible quality training for coaches and will help to build an effective coach education structure for Curling. We are delighted to congratulate RCCC on this achievement and look forward to providing continued support." Ewen Cameron, Partnership Manager **Sportscotland**

What does that mean for the future?

With the UKCC (United Kingdom Coaching Certificate) endorsement in 2012, there now comes the focus on continuous improvement of coach education. This will enhance the coaching of curlers which in turn should result in increasing levels of expertise and performance within our sport. That said, it would only be right and proper to recognise the endeavours of past coaching procedures which, over the years, have resulted in innumerable successes.

Feedback from course candidates?

It would be fair to say that on the initial run-out of the Level 2 Technical Coach Course in 2009, there were teething troubles, which was perhaps to be expected. Since then however, the course has been continually evolved, refined and improved (within the UKCC guidelines) in terms of presentation and understanding. Upgrading coaches now find the presentation and content of the weekend course more "user friendly", more understandable and certainly less stressful than the experiences of the initial candidates.

Feedback from those who qualified?

General comments from newly qualified coaches have summed up the actual course as being at times difficult and demanding but certainly rewarding and it's felt that the confidence gained from taking the course has been valuable in mentoring other coaches. One coach commented that it seems like a quantum step forward from the old Level B requirements.

Has negative feedback been addressed?

The initial negativity about the course centred around the "rough edges" of the course content in its first "run-out" format. These and other areas for improvement/development were made clear to the Royal Club who correctly recognised and addressed them. In its present form the Level 2 Technical Course now complies with UKCC guidelines and standards, and successful candidates have a nationally (SQA) recognised and endorsed qualification,

Has coaching quality improved?

The inevitable question to be asked is whether the new UKCC qualification is having or will have a tangible outcome on coaching and the "bottom line" has to simply be a resounding "YES". Early days yet but it all looks positive! More enlightenment on this course can be gleaned from the Royal Club website (under Coaching, go to Coach Education Structure and click on "Technical Coach Course Information").

Coaches Gathering 2013



Over 70 coaches attended their Gathering at Dewars Centre, Perth on Saturday 16th February. The Coaches Gathering is an annual social event organised by the RCCC Coaching Committee and provides coaches with the opportunity to network and share ideas.



On arrival coaches were welcomed by Morag Wellman and Iain Parkinson at the registration table, and the event was opened by Pam McKay who encouraged everyone to fill their complimentary *Gathering* branded book bags with the wide range of resources available. All Technical Coaches were invited to supply items that they were happy to share with others, a wealth of resources were dutifully submitted and a selection were supplied on the day, these included session plans, quizzes, puzzles and factsheets.



An informal presentation on the coaching pages within the RCCC website followed, led by Lynne MacKenzie, RCCC National Coaching Officer. Many coaches had not used the new pages and were interested in the live navigation presented. Opportunity to self explore was provided through a laptop set up at the back of the room with experienced operators available to assist.



Albert Middler, Coaching Committee Convenor introduced the main celebration of the evening, which was the formal presentation of the UKCC endorsement. The framed certificate was presented by Julie Mackintosh who travelled from London to represent Sports Coach UK. The award was received by RCCC President Bill Duncan who responded on behalf of the RCCC and presented Julie with a gift of thanks.



Ewen Cameron, **Sportscotland** Partnership Manager, having recently tried our sport for the first time, was introduced less formally and said a few words about this accreditation which recognises the standards achieved in the Level 2 Technical Coach Course and pledged that Sportscotland would continue to support the coach education development in Curling. Ladies Branch President Jenny Bain responded to Ewen with his gift of thanks.



The Coaches Gathering then provided opportunity for the RCCC to offer a couple of thanks. The first going to Ormond Smith who had utilised RCCC records, spoke with Sportscotland, UKCC and contacted a few qualified Technical coaches in his research to compose the "UKCC Journey" article (published above on page 2).



Coaches Gathering Cont...



The second thank you went to Ena Stevenson on her retirement from the years she had dedicated to coach education development. Lynne MacKenzie attempted to summarise Ena's valuable contributions but relied on a musical montage with a variety of photographs which were enjoyed by all.



Ena also received a bespoke token of appreciation. Ena expressed her gratitude for the recognition but also her surprise at the web of lies and deceit spun in order to ensure she attended the event and the "friends" who had supplied Lynne with photos for the montage.



RCCC Marketing staff, Stuart McLean and Talha Ihsan poured a variety of drinks which were served as Trevor Dodds, Board representative on the RCCC Coaching committee, proposed a short toast. Coaches were saluted for their time, efforts and invaluable contribution to our sport, and a glass was raised by all.



Everyone then enjoyed some social time with their glasses refilled, a plentiful buffet and the chance to mingle before the free raffle, including a 2ft easter egg! was drawn at the close of the evening

Much positive feedback has been received. Coaches enjoyed the event more than previous years and it was felt that the blend of formal and informal time was better balanced.

RCCC Website Coaches section



A selection of the popular resources from the share table and published at the Gathering are downloadable from the "Drills & Coaching Aids" section of the coaching pages of the RCCC website.

Coaching Committee 2013 -2014

A couple of representatives have served their time and stepped down from their role on the RCCC Coaching Committee.

Meetings are normally held in the evenings at Cairnie House, RCCC.

If you care about the progression of coaching within our sport, could be a link to communication opinions on current issues and would be interested in being a representative on this committee, please forward your interest to Albert Middler, Convenor, contactable through the committee web page.