



Welcome to the 2013-2014 Olympic season. I hope you have all enjoyed the summer, probably the best summer we've had for a number of years, and are feeling well rested and relaxed. Things are about to change. Most ice rinks are now open with their curling programmes up and running and most, if not all, have a full programme of Try Curling sessions planned to benefit from the massive Olympic television exposure. The Royal Club recently held a Try Curling Legacy conference with representatives and coaches from all of Scotland's curling centres and I would like to encourage all coaches to contact their local curling centre and offer their assistance with this ice rink based, national initiative.

To provide the best practise experience for the attendees, I would encourage all coaches, if you have not already done so, to consider refreshing the assistant coach course or upskilling to the

Technical Coach qualification. Additionally to lighten the possible work load, why not encourage some of your fellow club members to become coaches.

I am looking forward to this Olympic season and hope to see you some time during the season, if not at our annual coaches gathering.

Yours in Curling

Albert Middler, Coaching Committee Convenor

PVG Scheme



Further training for local area RCCC signatories was held during the summer. The RCCC is now ready to start retrospective checking for current active coaches. All current coaches will be contacted directly from the Royal Club to ascertain if they are currently active and to ascertain which type of PVG application form they will require. This will take approximately 3 years due to application monthly restrictions installed by CRBS.

BBC Songs of Praise



Sally Magnusson and her team joined the RCCC to try their hand at curling at the Peak, Stirling in June. The short curling feature for the Scottish episode of Songs of Praise was broadcast on 18th August on BBC One.

Contributing to the programme was our very own National Coaching Officer, Lynne MacKenzie, who as well as taking Sally through the basics of the game, explained how the history of the sport is linked to Paisley Abbey and also appeared in an interview about her faith with the presenter.

RCCC Lead Child Protection Officer.



Pam Mackay has submitted her resignation from the role of RCCC Lead Child Protection Officer effective from the end of 2013, due to health problems, and will be winding down in the interim period.



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 Royal Club office, Cairnie House, Edinburgh. A list of upcoming dates is available in the committee section of the Royal Club website. If you care about the progression of coaching within our sport, could be a link for communication, share 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.

New staff at RCCC



The Royal Caledonian Curling Club has recently appointed an Administrator and Marketing Assistant to its Edinburgh Head Office.

Rachael Lee, Administrator will be responsible for general office administration including finance support, co-ordinating travel and accommodation for Scottish teams, assisting with events, updating web content, data entry and telephone answering.

Jonathan Strandberg, Marketing Assistant, will be responsible for delivering components of the marketing, communication and fundraising strategies of the RCCC through the maintenance of day-to-day relationships with members and partners and will work with other staff to co-ordinate website content, e-newsletters, social media and other communications.

Both join the organisation as full time members of staff and have already been introduced to the sport with a curling session at Braehead.



RCCC TP & RCA training weekend



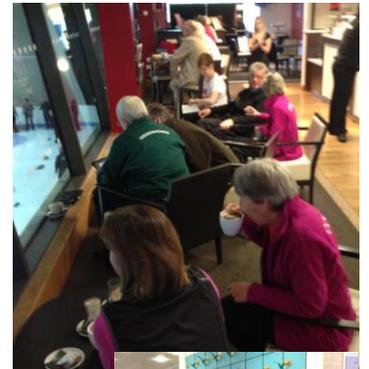
The season kicked off with a coaches' up-skilling event, for Royal Club Talent programme and Academy coaches, held at the Peak in Stirling for their pre-season training weekend. Designed and organised by RCCC Assistant Performance Development Coach, Brad Askew, the weekend was crammed with information, guidance and practical opportunities. Saturday was a busy day off ice, focusing on the goals of the RCA, technical delivery, benchmarking, sweeping mechanics,

time clocks and sport psychology, as well as a pilot overview of the



soon to be relaunched Skill Awards. A wealth of information was duly processed, as were new tips involving tennis balls! New "TryCurling" branded coach kit was distributed. Sunday was devoted to ice time. With all the RCA athletes attending, the numbers doubled this gave all coaches an opportunity to put theory into practice. They were

able to work with teams, shadow and mentor other coaches. They also had time with High Performance Coach Nancy Smith.



Skill Awards



The Skill Awards programme is a measurement of curling skill proficiency. The structure of the programme has been designed to allow curlers to progress through six levels. Since the inception of the Awards in 2005, the programme has been very successful at all levels and is delivered in most rinks throughout Scotland. As well as being a good measurement for players, it provides coaches with benchmarks, guidance and planning tools. However it has been recognised in recent years that the detail within each award has become a little out dated.

There has been a great deal of work over the summer to review and update each award, to ensure that the programme is current with our ever changing sport. New packs and assessor programmes will be delivered in the next month.



Coach Education Courses



Three Assistant Coach courses, held in Aberdeen, Ayr and Perth, kicked off the season with a Technical Coach course taking place recently in Perth. A list of more upcoming Assistant (Level 1) Coach and Technical (Level 2) Coach course details are available in the coaching section of the Royal Club website.



Both the Assistant and Technical Coach courses are curling qualifications supported and developed by Sportscotland.



Try Curling



The RCCC hosted the Try Curling Legacy Conference on Sunday 22nd September 2013 at Murrayfield Curling Rink. Ice rink managers and representative coaches from every rink were invited to attend as key people in

the delivery and success of the programme. The morning session focused on the RCCC's rebranding of the Try Curling programme, aims of the programme and content for Try Curling sessions. Posters, leaflets and session plans have already been distributed and a new website "trycurling.com" has been created in order to guide potential curlers to each rink.

In the afternoon session, there was an opportunity to watch a Try Curling demonstration session with new participants coming along for their first Try Curling experience! Six localised modules are being delivered around the country for local coaches and helpers to attend free of charge. Please go to the coaching course dates section of the RCCC website to register and find out where your nearest module is.

Coaches Clothing



For several years the RCCC has provided qualified coaches an option to buy RCCC branded coaching clothing. The clothing identifies the wearer as a Royal Club qualified coach and a range of styles were offered. All clothing bears a curling stone logo with the clear inscription "Coach" on the back and first name embroidered on the front left opposite the RCCC logo. Recently the RCCC has lost its supplier for this service.

Questions have been raised whether this is a service that the RCCC should continue to provide and how the range should be updated. Please contact any representative of the Coaching Committee and voice your opinions.