

Shortlist for 2014 Scottish Curling Awards

YOUNG CURLER OF THE YEAR

Gina Aitken

This season Gina claimed her second consecutive Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles title with Bruce Mouat, and won her first Scottish Curling Junior women's title. She represented Scotland at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (Dumfries, Scotland) and World Junior Curling Championships (Flims, Switzerland). Gina also won two Asham Under 21 Slam events (Kinross and Greenacres), and came third overall in the European Junior Curling Tour, in which she won the Braehead leg of the event.

Bruce Mouat

Bruce claimed his second consecutive Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles title with Gina Aitken, and went on to represent Scotland at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in Dumfries, Scotland. Bruce also dominated this year's Asham Under 21 Slam, winning all three events at Kinross, Inverness and Lockerbie to win the grand slam title.

Kyle Smith

Kyle defended his Scottish Curling Junior title for a third consecutive year and went on to win SILVER at the World Junior Curling Championships in Flims, Switzerland. Kyle also won the Scottish Curling Mixed Championship and will represent Scotland at the European Mixed Curling Championship in Tårnby, Denmark in September 2014.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Olympic Silver and European Bronze Medallists – Team GB and Team Scotland

David Murdoch (skip), Greg Drummond, Scott Andrews, Michael Goodfellow, Greg Drummond, Tom Brewster and Soren Gran (coach)

Olympic Bronze and European Silver Medallists – Team GB and Team Scotland

Eve Muirhead (skip), Anna Sloan, Vicki Adams, Claire Hamilton, Lauren Gray and David Hay (coach)

Paralympic Bronze Medallists – Team GB

Aileen Neilson (skip), Gregor Ewan, Robert McPherson, Jim Gault, Angie Malone and Tony Zummack (coach)

World Senior Women's Champions – Team Scotland

Christine Cannon (skip), Margaret Richardson, Isobel Hannen, Janet Lindsay, Margaret Robertson and Jackie Lockhart (coach)

GRASSROOTS COACH OF THE YEAR

Bill Creevy

Bill is well known as an experienced lead coach at Kirkcaldy and runs the Virtual Club, After Schools Club, and has developed a very close relationship with Fife Council - this means that local schools can bring children for a morning of coaching each week. Currently accrediting as a RCCC Technical Coach, Bill has continued to move with the times to recruit and encourage others into our sport. Working with the RCCC, Bill was instrumental to the success of the Try Curling initiative in Fife. This season has been particularly busy with over 250 people attending the Try Curling sessions with over 40 signing up for the beginner course. He was the main point of contact for new people interested in the sport through the

Try Curling website and poster campaign during the Olympics and his soft nature was both informative and welcoming.

Kirsty Letton

Kirsty, an experienced RCCC qualified Technical Coach has made an outstanding contribution at Ayr Curling Club this season by leading from the front and revamping the coaching system into what it is today. At the outset Kirsty identified the shortage of daytime coaches and organised, encouraged and mentored 11 experienced curlers to become RCCC qualified Assistant coaches this season, as well as helping others progress through their Technical Coach accreditation. Kirsty was instrumental in reinforcing links with local schools and increased the number of pupils attending Curling's Cool sessions. She was also responsible for organising the highly successful Try Curling sessions held at Ayr. The structures have enabled proper assistance during the sessions, including a variety of curling courses, schools, club, drop in Try Curling and corporate sessions. Kirsty is extremely modest regarding her wealth of knowledge and experience as a player and coach. Unpretentious and a great leader, she has an infectious enthusiasm which generates greater interest and keeps everyone interested.

Michael Nicholson

Michael is a relatively new coach who qualified as an RCCC Assistant Coach in 2010 and is currently progressing through the accreditation of the Technical coach qualification. Michael has contributed a massive amount of time and effort coaching new members at Dundee Virtual Club. With his youthful and energetic personality, and simple and engaging teaching style, no curler is overwhelmed with information which is important to those new to the sport. As a result many have now joined regular clubs. Without Michael's commitment to the sport and desire to coach new curlers the sport would never continue to grow.

ICE DIAMOND AWARD

Ayr Curling Development Group

Ayr Curling Development Group has been revitalised this season. Key successes have included the expansion of the Curling's Cool Programme to include 7 Primary Schools and 16 hours of Try Curling sessions delivered with a total of 263 people participating with many progressing to the scheduled beginners courses. The Development Group were instrumental in affiliating the Disnae Virtual Curling Club to the RCCC and increasing the membership 3 fold. In addition the Group has recruited a number of new coaches and encouraged established coaches to accredit as Level 2 Technical Coaches as without the support of volunteer coaches the programmes could not run. There has been a huge amount of progress made by Ayr Curling Development Group this season and future plans are in place to insure this continues in future years.

Pam Mackay

Pam has recently resigned from the volunteer role of RCCC Lead Child Protection Officer after approximately 30 years of service. Within the role Pam has been a driving force to evolve RCCC Child Protection policy and procedures to a robust standard which is admired by many other sports. Pam has led much of the training for coaches and has created a trained group of local Rink Child Protection Officers. Working closely with Children 1st, she has managed many child protection cases, queries and scenarios with confidence, confidentiality and competence. The sport of curling and the children who take part in our sport safely are indebted to Pam for her discreet work, time and dedication.

Dumfries LOC

This season the World Senior Curling Championships and World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship took place in Dumfries, Scotland. It was the largest world curling championship held to-date with 34 countries competing in the mixed doubles and another 40

teams in the senior men's and women's championships. The Dumfries Local Organising Committee planned a fantastic event with lots of new volunteers involved. A 'Curling Connections Exhibition' was put together led by Graeme Adam (LOC). There was a 'Taste of Scotland' producers area, a range of merchandise and even an event mascot (Ailsa the belted cow). There was a large army of volunteers from home and abroad who were co-ordinated by David Owen (LOC). The ice team, statisticians, umpires & time keepers ensured play on the ice ran smoothly throughout. Each and every member of the LOC put in a massive amount of work and deserves recognition for their success.