

Dalcross Curling Club-Presidents Report for Season 2009/10

Welcome to what I think is the 49th A.G.M of Dalcross Curling Club.

For any ex Dalcross members still around from our start in 1961 and those watching from the great curling rink in the sky this last year must have seemed very familiar.

Unlike recent years Jack Frost was with us for long long spells producing a plethora of outdoor curling. Had it not been for a combination of today's health and safety rules and a sudden thaw we would even been able to take part in what is becoming more and more mythical –The Grand Match. The team was picked, the gear collected and there was going to be lots of sickies taken but enough said!!

The Ice outside was so long in place that (to echo the wives of earlier farming curlers) when Judith Thomson was asked when Ian would be back from the curling she thought it would be about March.

For the outdoor Ice we owe particular thanks to our brother and sister curlers at Highland and Muir of Ord for preparing Ice and organising various bonspiels. As you can see from the pictures on the web site the Ice was much enjoyed.

From outdoors to In.

Ice at Inverness has been the best it has been for many years. Much of this is down to Keith and his new team of staff who have worked hard in what were sometimes difficult circumstances in getting things right. Barring any catastrophe with the Ice Plant we are hopeful of further improvements to the Ice and facilities this coming year. The Ice Rink web site which has been developed is improving and should make things easier for all the local clubs. At least we do have the Ice Rink under our own control unlike our fellow curlers in Moray who are facing sharp increases in price at Elgin and probably the loss of a lot of curling time.

I will leave most of the comments on our own curling to Margaret and John in their reports but would like to mention a few things.

First

Ellis Allan and Moira Hutcheon have been long term curlers and friends and I would want to put on record that our thoughts have been very much with them both this year.

Second

While the Olympics were very disappointing for all our curlers – often on just a few centimetres of Ice –the Scottish Curlers did well at many other levels. From our own club congratulations in particular are due to Blair Fraser for making the Scottish Junior Team which came so close to the World Championship. Tom Pendreigh continues to coach the International Disabled Squad to very good effect and best wishes to them both for future success.

Third

While the Outdoor Ice was great the snow did cause quite a lot of disruption and we lost the opportunity to play points- hopefully we can get this played again next year.

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Fourth

As we know we are Almost 50 so are looking forward to being able to plan some good events round the occasion. This is something we will need to work hard on but I am sure we will be able to do this well

Fifth

It has not been easy to keep the club flourishing in these difficult economic times particularly as we are all getting that bit older. To allow us to keep going for the next 50 years we need to continue our efforts to get new and younger members. To this end I am pleased to see new nominations coming forward and I hope that we are able to build on this

Finally some personal mentions

It is my time to step down and I would simply like to thank all at the club who have been a great help to me over the last two years. To all the committee in general and in particular to Margaret who continues to keep me on the straight and narrow and to John and Neil in their respective roles.

I have enjoyed my time and am sure that my successor will too.