



# IRISH CURLING ASSOCIATION

**PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER—APRIL 2021**

## **The season that wasn't...**

For the first time I can say I have gone through an entire curling season undefeated! The fact that I only played 2 games and they happened back in October is something I won't dwell on. The same cannot be said for my online curling however...

David Hume turned league administrator for interested members as he put together a two-tier league played over the last few months which certainly gave me something to look forward to on Thursday evenings. I gracefully took up last position on the league table. Of course the broadest shoulders are needed to prop everyone else up but unfortunately, I was just pretty rubbish. At the other end of the table it came down to the wire as Mark Foley pipped Arran Cameron to the title—well done Mark! The biggest shock of all was the remarkable form of one JJ Kenny—having tipped himself for the drop all the time, you can see him on the right with his special trophy just for the occasion... Any resemblance to any Alberta-based Brier winning teams is purely coincidental.

Our relationships with both the OFI and other sports in Ireland continue to grow. On our behalf, David Whyte contributed to a strategic planning ses-



sion with Sport Ireland as they assess how to expand the Campus at Blanchardstown in particular assessing the feasibility of including an ice rink in these plans. Although there are no guarantees at this stage, this is perhaps the most encouraging progress we have had in a while on this front. Ailsa Anderson attended an athletes forum consulting on the Irish Winter Sports Strategy that has been compiled by all of the winter sports governing bodies that I have enjoyed contributing to. Finally, the long-listed athletes for Beijing 2022 have attended the first of a series of workshops about the venues in Beijing and then dealing with jetlag.

After the last newsletter, a number of members have completed some online WCF Courses in coaching and umpiring. These courses were part of the World Curling Academy which is an excellent online resource and this opportunity was made possible thanks to the support of the WCF Development Assistance Program. Congratulations to all those who earned their certificates!

Plans for next season are in the works with the annual ice bookings going in. We are also planning a Training Day to coincide with the opening bonspiel to help shrug off any COVID-related sliding rust! Watch this space!

Further to Bill's email, the AGM has been postponed with the committee planning for a date in July. We are hoping that at that stage we will be able to meet in person, but will certainly have an option to join online. In addition to our usual reports, we will have some constitutional changes for member consideration and the elections both to the committee and of our office bearers.

On that note, I would like to personally encourage all members to think about standing in these elections. There will be a number of ordinary members to be elected to the committee as well as the election of a President Elect. It's incredible that my tenure is already half completed! It has been one of the most wonderful things I have done and hope that one of you will consider succeeding me to what is such a rewarding position.

If you are interested in any of this please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or another committee member.

Until the AGM....

## **Dates for your**

### **Diary...**

#### **Bank Holiday Zoom Drinks**

**30th May 8pm**

Come and join us once again

**AGM:** July 2021, Venue TBC.

#### **Season 2021-22:**

Replication of last season including 4 bonspiels accompanying The Fyfe Trophy, The Ardrossan Castle Fixture, The Four Nations, The Stranraer Weekend.

## **Parish Notices**

### **(Future) New Members:**

We have had two ICA babies! Congratulations to Craig Whyte and Jacqui Davidson and their families on their new arrivals!

Craig and wife Fiona welcomed Emily (right) to their family on 16th March. Craig reports that his son Fraser already has her in training for the Aviemore 2042 Olympic Mixed Doubles.



Jacqui and husband Campbell welcomed Chloe (left) on 17th February and are delighted to now be a family of three. Chloe is modelling her ICA training gear. Membership forms are in the post....

