



IRISH CURLING ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER—SEPTEMBER 2021

Here we go again... again!

Reflecting on my first year as President, it could be easy to think of it as a bit of a false start. Despite the lack of on-ice events, I am really proud of what the committee achieved and the amount of digital alternatives we organized. Having the opportunity to showcase that at the AGM was really welcome and I want to thank all the attendees again for passing the constitutional amendments that will enable us to continue to modernize. Despite all that, I'm ready to rock again and can't wait to get sliding, and I hope you are too!

The pandemic has disrupted things somewhat in terms of ice booking but we are mostly there and will update things for later in the year as and when we know them but I am really excited to be start on **26th September at Greenacres** with an opening training day and bonspiel. We have two sessions booked and are aiming to shake off some rust before getting down to a game.

Once again, as we are playing at Scottish ice rinks, we will be following Scottish Curling's "Return to Curling

Guidelines". At time of writing, there are very few restrictions in place on the ice but more details can be found here: <https://www.scottishcurling.org/covid-19/return-to-curling-guidance/>

However, before all that, our men's team will be representing Ireland at the European C-Division in Geneva, Switzerland. Good luck to the team of **John Wilson, Kyle Paradis, Arran Cameron and Craig Whyte**. A top three finish will see them qualify for B-division—we're all pulling for you, enjoy it and play well! A special mention must go to Kyle making his international debut—congratulations!

The committee have met already this year and are excited to be able to act further on our development plan and the results of our member survey last year. We've had a little bit of change in the committee and the following members are championing each of development areas:

Ice in Ireland: David Whyte

Profile and Awareness: Eoin McCrossan

Membership: Steven Callan

International Representation: John Wilson

Funding: Craig Whyte

Governance: Jen Ward

The final thing I would bring your attention to is around our national championships entries. Once again we will have an individual entry deadline ahead of the team deadline to allow as many interested members as possible to realise their competitive ambitions. Please do give this some thought, it would be wonderful to have a thriving domestic competition scene.

Ahead of the next bonspiel there are a few things on the presidential to-do list, I will be attending the virtual WCF congress as well as engaging with other Irish Winter Sports and website designers... Watch this space and see you on the ice!

Dates for your Diary...

- **September 19th:**

Individual Entry Deadline If you're interested in playing in a national championship but don't have a full team make sure to get your name in.

- **September 26th:**

Opening Training Day and Bonspiel at Greenacres Come and shake off the rust and catch up with members. Training will start at 9:45am and the bonspiel at 12:30pm

- **October 3rd:**

Team Entry Deadline! The final deadline for teams interested in all national championships: Seniors, Mens, Womens, Mixed and Mixed Doubles.

- **November 7th:**

Irish Open at Greenacres Our open-entry national title, competing for the Fyfe Trophy. This is an all-day event of short games with lots of fun guaranteed.

- **November 12th-14th:**

ICA Mixed Doubles Championships at Dumfries The winner of this event will have the right to go to the WCF World MD Qualifier in Forfar in January 2022.

- **December:**

Proposed Winter Bonspiel Date and venue TBC.

- **January 21st-23rd:**

ICA National Championships at Dumfries Men's, Women's and Senior's Championships depending on entry numbers.

- **January 28th-30th:**

Four Nations at Ayr

- **February 6th:**

Spring Bonspiel at Murrayfield

- **February 26th-27th:**

Irish Weekend at Stranraer

- **March 12th-13th:**

Irish Mixed Championship at Dumfries