



IRISH CURLING ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER—OCTOBER 2020



Returning to Returning to Curling...

And so we're back where we were... Or not quite.

A lot has happened since the last time I wrote to you all and yet unfortunately we are back in a position where we currently cannot curl. My inner optimist is telling me that we will be back on the ice so here is hoping.

This hasn't quite been the season I expected so far as President but I have been enjoying myself nonetheless. I had the privilege of attending the AGM of The Olympic Federation of Ireland as well as the WCF Annual General Assembly. As promised, I have included a picture of me in "Half



and Half' regalia. You can decide which half is better...

The committee have been hard at work behind the scenes progressing with our membership survey actions, creating some exciting and engaging social media content - If you haven't seen John Wilson's expedition to Ailsa Craig check it out on the ICA Instagram and Facebook pages—and successfully organising the Opening Bonspiel.

We had a great day at Greenacres showing the potential for socially distanced curling. Congratulations once again to the winning team of **David Whyte, Nathan Furey, Gilly Drury and Frances Donald** who you can see above.

This month we unfortunately lost past president and founding member Fiona Turnbull who passed away after her battle with cancer. Our own Louise Kerr has written a moving obituary which you can read on our website. I have passed on all of our condolences to Fiona's sons.

Looking ahead, we hope to rearrange

the Irish Open if we can as well as confirming a bonspiel in November. Along with my Scottish, Welsh and English counterparts we have taken the difficult decision to **cancel the 2021 Four Nations** particularly given the lack of social interaction currently allowed. Scotland will host in Ayr in 2022 and we will take up the baton in 2023, celebrating our 30th anniversary!

Keep an eye out from Bill for playdown entry forms for national championships with a closing date of **November 15th**. To stimulate some potential extra interest we will also facilitate an individual entry list. If you want to play but don't have a full team, submit a note of interest with your contact details to Bill by **31st October**, we will then share that list with everyone who has expressed interest to allow them to put a team together ahead of the deadline. Good luck!

Dates for your Diary...

• **October 24th:**

Zoom Drinks! Come and catch up with everyone in the association from 7-9pm. We will have small breakout groups to make sure we can all chat. Look out for a Zoom link from Bill in your inbox.

• **October 31st:**

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.

• **November 19th:**

Sports Psychology Seminar! Our very own Dr. Kyle Paradis will deliver a seminar on sports psychology and its applications to curling start-

ing at 7:30pm. Kyle was awarded a Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada before joining the University of Ulster in 2019 in Belfast. This is one not to be missed.

• **December 2020:**

ICA Virtual Christmas Cracker!

Following on from our Lockdown tournament as well as our Saudi Arabia challenge, we will once again put our wits and mouses to the test. I hear the defending champion is quite the player...

Parish Notices

Welcome to new members:

- Iain Dick from Edinburgh; Brian Mathews, a Canadian now residing in Dublin and Mark Foley, an Irish - Canadian currently in London. We hope to meet on the ice soon!

Congratulations to both Jacqui Davidson who is expecting her first child and Craig Whyte who is expecting his second child!

Jacqui is due in February but insists that her husband Campbell will still need to provide a Valentine's Day present.

Craig's wife Fiona is due at the same time as the Mixed Playdowns so he hopes she can hold on a little longer...

Congratulations too to grandparents incoming, David, Frances, Ross and Alison.