



AIRTHREY CASTLE CURLING CLUB

A HISTORY 1878-1998

Alex R Campbell

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AIRTHREY CASTLE CURLING CLUB - A HISTORY

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PREFACE.

As a new member of Airthrey Castle Curling Club in the 1970's I heard snippets about the earlier history of the Club but never really had an understanding of its past. Later when I became an Officer of the Club I saw some notes which had been prepared by the late Hamish Tullis and this led to an interest in the subject. Ray Braithwaite hoped at one stage to research the subject further but his move to the North of England prevented much progress

About two years ago, after finishing my period as President, I received the support of the Committee in an attempt to produce a Club History. This led to some fascinating delving into old records, a process which took far longer than I had expected. I have had a great deal of help from many sources to whom I am most grateful. Much information was gleaned from the copies of the old Stirling Journal newspapers held at the Reference Library in Stirling and from the archives of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in Edinburgh. Other material was found in the collection of the Welsh Historical Trust held at the Library in Bridge of Allan.

I am particularly grateful to John Stewart and George Barclay who, as well as reminding me of various matters from their own memories, were kind enough to read over the final draft and make various helpful suggestions.

Sadly, the Minute Books of the Club prior to 1955 cannot be located, but despite this it has been possible to find a surprisingly large amount of detail on the early years. I would urge Club Officers in the future to keep good records and to ensure that they are carefully preserved in the hope that, perhaps when the Club is 150 years old in the year 2028, someone will be able to bring this History up to date.

Alex. R. Campbell.
March 1998.

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1 ORIGINS.

In around 1790 Robert Haldane, owner of the Airthrey Estate which lies between Bridge of Allan and Causewayhead, was completing the construction of his new mansion house and the landscaping of the grounds. As part of this project he formed the sheet of water known as Airthrey Loch. Almost ninety years later in 1878 the then owner of the estate, Lord Abercromby, gave permission for the newly formed Airthrey Castle Curling Club to enjoy their sport on the Loch.

Airthrey Estate subsequently passed into the ownership of the Graham family and then the Donaldson family before it ceased to be a private residence and became firstly the maternity hospital for the Stirling area and then a part of the new University of Stirling. In recent years the new buildings of the University have spread over much of the Estate with the loch forming the centrepiece of the landscaping and gardens which give the University such an attractive setting.

The inaugural meeting was held in the Wallace Arms at Causewayhead and the first Annual Dinner was at the same venue. However the headquarters of the Club were soon transferred to The Royal Hotel at Bridge of Allan where they have remained for most of its subsequent history.

At the first meeting Lord and Lady Abercromby were appointed as Patron and Patroness and Mr Laurence Pullar of The Lea, Kenilworth Road, was appointed President. Rev. David Imrie, the minister of Logie Kirk, became Chaplain to the Club, the first of three Logie ministers to occupy this office from 1878 to 1949 all of them being active curlers. Mr Pullar ran the dyeing branch of the well-known family firm which had works at Keirfield in Bridge of Allan and at Ashfield near Kinbuck. While he served as President for only four years he remained a member, and later an Honorary member, for over forty years.

The new club was not slow to get into action on the ice and the Stirling Journal of December 1878 records a game played for a medal presented by the Chaplain and another for a pair of curling stones presented by Mr John Peat of Manor. In 1879 the Club was admitted to membership of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (RCCC) at its Annual Meeting in the Cafe Royal in Edinburgh with a membership of twenty regular and nineteen occasional members. Thirty-one other Clubs were admitted at the same meeting including Darlington, Manchester Bellevue, Clandeboye, Mount Ida (New Zealand), and Manitoba (Canada). Curling at that time was a fast

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growing sport and not just in Scotland. It was reported that Lord Dufferin, then Ambassador at the Court of the Tsar in St Petersburg, was trying to inaugurate a club in that city in addition to the one already operating in Moscow. Curiously, the family seat of Lord Dufferin was at Clondeboyne in County Down.

An account was opened at the Union Bank in Henderson Street but in the early years it seems that this was frequently overdrawn, a situation regularly blamed on the consumption of refreshments at Club matches.

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2. THE OUTSIDE ICE AGE.

There can be no doubt that the winter weather in the latter part of the nineteenth century and the first twenty years of the twentieth was vastly colder than that which we experience today. As a result, curling on the frozen Loch at Airthrey and at other suitable sheets of natural water in the area was a regular occurrence. As evidence of this, the Grand Match was held on no less than thirteen occasions between 1880 and 1910 whereas in more than fifty years since the end of the war in 1945 it has been played only three times, the last being in 1979 on the Lake of Menteith.

Members of Airthrey took full part in both their own club games and in matches against other clubs. That they were also competitive can be judged from the speech given by Mr Greenhorn at the Annual Dinner in 1884 when he said that *"with twelve men from Airthrey he would not be afraid to curl against twelve men from any other club in the world"*. The local paper records that at this dinner *"there was musical talent in abundance"* and *"the meeting throughout was hearty and harmonious and broke up at a seasonable hour"*.

In 1890 the Airthrey Estate passed into the ownership of Donald Graham of Airthrey CIE. Any worries about continued use of the Loch were quickly set at rest by the new Laird when he indicated that *"he counted it a pleasure to place the Loch at the disposal of curlers and skaters and intended to experiment with the level of the Loch, the more to ensure the safety of the public"*.

In January 1895 the very first international curling match was played between Scotland and England at Talkin Tarn when sixty-nine rinks took part. Dr Haldane, a local G.P. and a leading member of the club for many years, skipped a rink from Airthrey but lost to a rink from Newcastle upon Tyne. Scotland however won the match by a large margin. To reach this match the members boarded a train at Bridge of Allan at 6am on a bitter morning complete with their stones and crampits. Three hours later they reached Carlisle where they changed trains for Haltwhistle where horses and carts conveyed them and their gear to the Tarn. Following the game the same journey in reverse faced them to get home.

The year 1901 was to prove a tragic one for the Club. In January their Patron Donald Graham of Airthrey died and there soon followed an event which brought curling on Airthrey Loch to an abrupt end. On Friday

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15th February curling was in progress on one part of the Loch while skaters were enjoying their sport in other areas. A young lady from Bridge of Allan, Miss Kate Rutherford, crashed through a thinner area of ice into the freezing water. Other skaters and many of the curlers, rushed to help and several more went into the water and had themselves to be rescued. Members of Airthrey Castle attempted to drag a boat over the ice from the boathouse and launch it into the water. Dr Haldane was sent for urgently but sadly both Miss Rutherford and Mr Fred Pullar, only son of the Club's founder President, drowned.

Fred Pullar was only 25 years of age but was already a brilliant scientist. He had studied at the High School of Stirling and at Glasgow Technical College. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, and of the Royal Meteorological Society, an Associate of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and had recently become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He maintained a private observatory at The Lea. He is credited with the invention of an ingenious apparatus for sounding the depth of water, and had worked on a bathymetric survey of the Scottish Lochs with Sir John Murray who was Scientific Director of the Challenger expedition to the Antarctic between 1872 and 1876, and who lived at one time in the property in Bridge of Allan now known as the Old Manor. His funeral, conducted by the Rev. R. Menzies Fergusson, Minister of Logic and Chaplain to the Club, was one of the largest ever seen in the area and a special train was run to bring workers from Ashfield to Bridge of Allan station to join those from the works at Keirfield. His Father donated £10,000 in his memory to allow the survey of depths of the Scottish Lochs to continue and to this day the underwater contours shown on Ordnance Survey maps are based on this work.

No curling took place on the Loch for many years after this sad event but in 1979 members played a game there a few days after the Grand Match on the Lake of Menteith.

Following the loss of Airthrey Loch as a venue for curling, discussion turned to the provision of an artificial outdoor pond and in 1907 this was completed on the Logie Glebe, roughly where Pathfoot Drive stands today. The cost of over two hundred pounds was subscribed by the members and artificial lighting was added within a couple of years. A rent of four guineas a year was payable to the Minister. Unfortunately the pond, which comprised two rinks, was never entirely satisfactory and required frequent attention and repair. Some blamed tree roots and others inadequate foundations. Despite this it continued in use but only

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a few games were played there after 1945 and it was eventually abandoned in 1950.

Throughout the years of outdoor curling the club had an Iceman whose duties were to prepare the rinks and the equipment. The first iceman, David Rutherford, retired in 1895 to be succeeded by Thomas Anderson who served the club in this position for thirty-seven years after which he was elected a life member of the club. In 1949 his son John Anderson became a member.

The Club Constitution of 1936 required each member to pay the Iceman three pence for each game in which he played.

The last Iceman was James McGibbon who *'was a tower of strength and managed on numerous occasions to produce ice after only a light frost'*. For the 1935-36 season he was paid a salary of six pounds, with two pounds six shillings for 'extra work'. He carried on until well in his eighties and his death saw the last use of the Airthrey pond.

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3. AIRTHREY CHARACTERS.

Among the founder members, Dr Haldane was perhaps the most notable local citizen. Born in Bridge of Allan in 1847, where he spent the greatest part of his life, he was educated at the High School of Stirling and at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow where he graduated as an M.D. After a short spell as an assistant at Pitlochry he was appointed physician for Braemar and Balmoral where his patients included the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. After a few years he returned to Bridge of Allan, where he established a large practice from his home at Viewforth in Kenilworth Road, a property which in more recent times has served as a private nursing home.

Dr Haldane was Chairman of Logie School Board for thirty years, Chairman of the Bridge of Allan Water Company, and a J.P. for Stirlingshire. He took a leading part in the formation of the Bridge of Allan Mineral Wells Company and served as a Director. This was the firm which developed the notable spa at the former Allan Water Hotel. Haldane *"had a thorough belief in the virtues and curative powers of the mineral waters"*. In 1885 he gave a medal to each of five hundred local children in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. He repeated this gesture ten years later for the Diamond Jubilee.

He served as President of the Club in the 1882-83 season and as Vice-President from 1891 to his death in 1914. There is a memorial window in his memory in Chalmers Church. A few months before his death he assumed as a partner Dr. Halliday Welsh who continued in practice for many years and whose name is commemorated in the Welsh Historical Trust and in the name of the street Welsh Gardens. His nephew Robin Welsh was Secretary of the RCCC for many years and attended the Centenary dinner of the Club in that capacity.

Thomas Cumming, who was President from 1883 to 1885, was also Secretary of the Stirling and Bridge of Allan Tramways Company which operated horse drawn trams between the two towns.

A member from 1887 to 1895 was Joseph Denovan Adam RSA RSW who lived at Craigmill House on the Alloa Road and was Scotland's foremost animal painter, specialising in Highland Cattle. After many years in relative obscurity his work has become popular again and a major exhibition of his paintings was held at the Smith Art Gallery in Stirling recently when visitors could admire the paintings within, and then meet two live specimens of the breed in a pen in the grounds.

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Another local street, Gordon Crescent, is named after a family with strong connections with the Club. Colonel W. E. Gordon, a member during the 1930's, had been awarded the VC during the Boer War and was captured by the enemy during the Great War only to be exchanged for a German Prince. He later became Commandant of Queen Victoria School at Dunblane. Sadly he died in 1941 from injuries sustained during the London Blitz.

His younger brother, Major Archibald Alexander Gordon CBE MVO JP, was born in Bridge of Allan in 1867. He was Club Secretary from 1928 to 1936 and also, for many years up to 1937, was a member of the committee of Scottish Central Province.

From his youth he recalled visits to his parents by Lord and Lady Abercromby of Airthrey Castle and regarded Lady Abercromby as a very great lady who had been a Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria. A wealthy relative financed him for a year of travelling around the world so, at the age of 21, he sailed on the maiden voyage of the P & O liner *Oriental* from the Thames in Feb. 1889 for Bombay and travelled on to Australia and New Zealand, Hong Kong, China, Japan, and thence to San Francisco and on to Vancouver. Crossing Canada by the Canadian Pacific Railway he stayed a day in Winnipeg *where "the sidewalks consisted simply of planks of wood while the streets and roads were rivers of mud"*. Spending time in New York, kindly introductions led to meetings with prominent people including the veteran of the American Civil War, General William Sherman.

Finally, on a visit to the West Indies, he traced the largely derelict property of his maternal grandfather who had been one of the chief planters in the early years of the nineteenth century but was ruined by the abolition of the slave trade in 1834 and died a poor man. Amazingly he found a very elderly ex-slave who had worked on the property and remembered his grandfather with affection as a good and kind 'Massa'. His grandmother brought back from Jamaica her personal maid, a black former slave girl, who lived the rest of her life in Bridge of Allan and is buried in Logie Kirkyard.

On his return, while working as a land agent, he became Secretary of a fund to raise a Scottish National Memorial to Queen Victoria. This memorial took the form of the Queen Victoria School in Dunblane which was opened by King Edward VII in 1908, when Gordon was personally presented with the MVO by the King. In 1906 he became Private Secretary to the Duke of Wellington based at Apsley House in London. During his time there he attended the Archduke Franz

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Ferdinand of Austria, later to be assassinated at Sarajevo, when he stayed at Apsley House for the funeral of King Edward in 1910.

When Germany invaded Belgium in 1914 he was asked to set up a fund for the relief of Belgian refugees which raised in a short period the astonishing sum, for those days, of over £1.25m plus huge quantities of gifts in kind of foodstuffs and the like. Due to his work with this fund he made a number of visits to Antwerp which was by then under siege. During the siege he escorted Mr Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, during a visit to British Troops.

Following the fall of Antwerp the Belgian Royal Family refused to leave Belgium but withdrew to a small seaside resort on the coast in an area which was not occupied by the enemy. They remained there throughout the war under intermittent attack by shell fire and enemy aircraft. Maj. Gordon was appointed as British Military Attaché to the Belgian King Albert and became a trusted and valued friend of the King's family whom he served until 1919. He rode with them on their triumphal entrance to Brussels at the end of the war.

In 1920 he gave up his appointment with the Duke of Wellington due to his wife's increasing ill-health and retired to the country. In 1924 they paid a visit to his birthplace of Bridge of Allan and decided that "*its mild climate appeared to be what was considered essential for an invalid*". They purchased the house, Jessamine, in Chalton Road where his wife died four years later but where he continued to reside for the rest of his life dividing his time between Boy Scouts, the British Legion, gardening and curling but also paying many visits to Greece and Palestine to pursue an amateur interest in archaeology. He was a friend of the author H. V. Morton. His own book 'Culled from a Diary 1867-1939' was published in 1941 by Oliver and Boyd at eight shillings and sixpence and a copy is held by the National Library of Scotland.

The membership of the Club was graced, for a continuous period of over seventy years from its foundation, by the Ministers of Logie Kirk. The Rev D. N. Imrie, a founder member, was succeeded in 1885 by The Rev. R. Menzies Fergusson who held office in both the Kirk and the Club for some thirty-six years. His involvement in curling was considerable, as he succeeded The Rev. John Kerr in 1913 as Chaplain to the RCCC, a post which he held for seven years, and in 1912 he became a Vice-President of the Royal Club, only the second representative of Central Province to be so honoured. As a curler he attended the opening of Crossmyloof Ice Rink in

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Glasgow on 1st October 1907 and skipped a Scottish Central Province rink in the inaugural match. He also skipped Airthrey rinks in numerous Grand Matches and was for a time President of Central Province.

Within the Airthrey Club, Menzies Fergusson served as Chaplain from 1885 to 1921 and combined this office with that of Secretary from 1891. He even managed to serve as Treasurer as well for a few years.

After the end of the First World War he toured Europe lecturing to American troops as part of a programme to improve relationships between the Americans and British. A copy of his book '*With the American Army in France – A diary of a Lecture Tour*' is in the reference Library in Stirling.

His other activities included Convening the Church of Scotland Committee on Temperance, and chairing a government enquiry into the condition of tinkers in Scotland. He was a prolific author and his numerous books included a Life of Alexander Hume (one of his predecessors at Logie) and a two-volume history of the Parish of Logie. Some of his books were illustrated by J. Denovan Adam.

The last Logie Minister to be associated with the Club was The Rev. Walter McIntyre who succeeded Fergusson in 1921 and remained there until he died in 1949. He again was an active curler, and also served the Club as Secretary and Treasurer. In 1951 Canon John Scott, then minister of the Episcopal Church in Bridge of Allan, became Club Chaplain and since his death in 1991 this office has been vacant.

Possibly the best-known Airthrey curler in the club's existence was Mr D. Bentley Murray. The son of a family of Lanarkshire ironmasters, he joined the Club in 1894 and was a member for some forty years. A giant of a man for his time at six foot four, he lived initially at 22 Snowdon Place and later at The Shelling in Park Place, Stirling and was a renowned sportsman in many fields. He was a recognised authority on all aspects of salmon fishing and a Captain of Stirling Golf Club where his photograph can still be seen.

In 1902-03 he toured Canada as a member of the first ever RCCC overseas tour. A book of cuttings in the Welsh Trust includes a splendid photograph of him in action on the crampit which was published in the Stirling Sentinel of 31st March 1933. In the RCCC Annual for 1926-27, in a description of the Grand Match on 4th *December* 1925, it is

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stated that *"No Skip attracted more public attention than Mr D. Bentley Murray, who played for Airthrey Castle. A commanding figure, with a voice in proportion, his witty exhortations and sallies greatly amused the spectators"*.

Bentley Murray died in 1934 but in 1939, on the first day of the Second World War, his widow was a passenger on the torpedoed liner Athenia and spent eight hours in an open boat before being rescued and brought ashore at Galway. Just before the war their son, Squadron Leader William Bentley Murray set a world record for an out and return glider flight of over twenty-two hours. He later became a Wing Commander at the age of twenty-seven, was in command of a coastal squadron of Blenheim bombers, and received the DFC.

Until about 1939 the position of Patron of the Club was held by The owner of the Airthrey Estate. The founder Patron, Lord Abercromby, was succeeded by Donald Graham of Airthrey and he in turn by Mr Charles Donaldson who, in 1929, hosted at his own expense a splendid dinner to mark the golden jubilee of the Club. Charles Donaldson was Chairman of the Donaldson Line group of shipping companies. He was the last private owner of Airthrey Castle which then became a Maternity Hospital. The Office of Patron then passed to Maj. Gen. Sir Stuart Hare of Blairlogie whose Father Col.J.Hare had been President from 1891 to 1929. The final holder of the position of Patron was Col. H. B. Spens of Powis House whose wife had become the first lady member of the Club as early as 1926.

One of the longest periods in one office in the history of the Club was served by Mr Andrew M. Wardlaw, a local Solicitor, who joined the Club in 1893 and became Treasurer in 1901, a position he held for thirty-five years. He remained a member until the early 1940's

4. THE GRAND MATCH.

Unquestionably the largest, and arguably the greatest, event in curling is the Grand Match between the North of Scotland and the South of Scotland. This takes place on outdoor ice only when there is sufficient thickness of ice to carry the weight of thousands of curlers, their stones and other equipment, many spectators, and traditionally a fair quantity of whisky.

But for a sudden thaw, the first ever Grand Match would have been held on Airthrey Loch in 1845. In fact that honour went to a loch at Penicuik two years later. This was followed by matches at Linlithgow Loch in 1848 and at Lochwinnoch in 1850. Vivid descriptions of these games can be found in Dr W. H. Murray's book "*The Curling Companion*" published in 1981.

Worries over the safety of large numbers on the ice led the RCCC to seek out a suitable piece of land which could be flooded to a shallow depth and give good ice without the risks attendant on using deep water. Eventually a lease was taken of 63 acres of low lying ground at Carsebreck between Greenloaning and Blackford. This had the added merit of being close to the main Stirling to Perth railway line. During 1852 banks were built and sluices formed to provide a sheet of water barely a foot deep at one end and shelving gradually to nearly six feet at the other.

The first match took place on 15th February 1853 and was started and finished by a cannon captured during the Napoleonic Wars. The Grand Match was played at Carsebreck on twenty-five occasions in the period up to 1935, i.e. on average about once every three years if the years of the first world war are discounted. Curlers came to the matches with their stones and crampits by special trains from all over Scotland and a railway siding was built adjacent to the rinks.

Airthrey curlers were as keen as any to take part and the Club has had rinks competing in every match except one since its formation. Their first participation was in the game on 23rd January 1880 with a single rink skipped by John Main who lost by just one shot to a rink from Coatbridge but the North were victorious overall by 2830 shots to 2802.

The division between North and South was originally the Rivers Forth and Clyde but this boundary has sometimes been adjusted slightly to equalise the number of rinks on each side. For this reason Airthrey, while usually representing the North, has also played for the South on a

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couple of occasions. 1880 was rather a vintage year as there were two Grand Matches, the second being played on December 30th when three rinks from Airthrey took part with only the rink skipped by Dr Haldane being victorious.

In 1882 two of the Club rinks were winners but the third, led by Thomas Cumming, lost to a rink from Galashiels by the huge margin of three shots to thirty-five. In the match of 1897 the number of rinks taking part had grown to 281 on each side. Early in this century the frequency of the games began to decline due to lack of frost and on one or two occasions a version of the Grand Match was held on inside ice over a period of perhaps a couple of weeks. This was not popular as it had nothing of the atmosphere of the real thing.

Curiously, both world wars contained several years with long periods of severe frost which would in normal circumstances have allowed the Grand Match to be played. The last match at Carsebreck was in 1935 in dreadful weather and during the 1939-45 war the signal box and the siding were removed by the railway company never to be restored. With no adequate alternative road access the use of Carsebreck came to an end.

After the war many clubs had ceased to exist, while others struggled on with few members, and there was little enthusiasm for a Grand Match. In addition the RCCC could not obtain co-operation from the railway authorities in giving a commitment to provide a special service at very short notice. Only when the use of private cars became widespread did it become possible to contemplate a match. This eventually took place on Loch Leven in January 1959 in superb conditions on six inches of ice with 120 rinks playing. The one Airthrey rink was skipped by Charles Wailer and lost by four shots. The South were declared the winners by the extraordinarily close margin of 1314 shots to 1303.

The reintroduction of the match for the first time in twenty-four years produced a huge upsurge in entries for the following year, despite a rise in the entry fee to five shillings. As a result the next match, in 1963 and held for the first time on the Lake of Menteith, was twice the size with 2000 curlers taking part. Airthrey skips were Finlay Anderson and Fergus Henderson.

Once again the frosts deserted us and it was not until 7th February 1979 that another match on the Lake of Menteith could take place. This

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time 300 rinks played for each side giving 2400 curlers on the ice with perhaps as many again of interested spectators. It was a spectacular sight on a still and brilliantly sunny winter day and those who took part, among whom your Author was fortunate to be one, will never forget the experience. The roar of the stones, the cries of the skips, the fellowship of the curlers, and the occasional dram made it a truly memorable occasion.

Airthrey had two rinks, one skipped by John Stewart who lost by 9 shots to 13 to a rink from Logan Curling Club, and the other by Gregor Robertson who won by 20 shots to 2 against Alpha Ladies Curling Club. Of those who played for Airthrey only John Stewart, who had also played in the 1963 match, George Barclay, and Alex. Campbell remain members of the club in 1998. Overall the North won by a substantial margin. John Stewart's rink included a Canadian, Bob Segsworth, who was attending Stirling University and joined Airthrey for the time he was in Scotland. Sadly almost twenty years have now passed without another match being possible and in these days of 'global warming' it may be that only a freak year will make it possible at last. Curlers are perhaps one of the few groups who might welcome the first signs of a return to the ice age!

Even in 1950, concern was expressed by the R.C.C.C. that *"soon we shall have a race of curlers who have never experienced outdoor play"*. Sadly the same is even more true today and recently the Royal Club felt it necessary to issue guidance notes to clubs on the procedures for outdoor play. For those fortunate enough to have experienced it however, there is a unique quality to curling in the open air on a fine frosty winter day. Airthrey still has its own collection of stones and all the other equipment needed for outdoor play and we must hope that it is not too long before it can be put to good use.

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5. THE LADIES.

Curling is a sport in which, at club level at least, men and women compete on equal terms. Airthrey Castle is a mixed club and has been so for about seventy years. A speaker at the fiftieth anniversary dinner in 1929 said that "*the proposal for the election of lady members had caused some fluttering in the dovecotes but had proved a great success*".

Present at that dinner were two Lady members, Mrs H. B. Spens wife of Lt Col Spens DSO of Powis House, and Miss Alexander of The Red House, Bridge of Allan. These two were known in curling circles as 'The Captain' and 'The Laird' respectively. Both were made curlers at the Court which followed the dinner and both spoke at the dinner. Mrs Spens said how pleased they were to have been allowed to "*draw the port of membership*" and to have been made to feel "*in the house and never cramp it*".

By the early nineteen-thirties there seem to have regularly been half a dozen Lady members listed in the account book of the club. Some of these ladies may well have won club competitions, but the earliest record of a lady being the winning skip for one of the trophies which the club still possesses is that of Isobel Young who won the Graham Cup in 1982. Since then Alice Conlan has been a winner of the Royal Cup and Anne Baillie has been a frequent trophy winner.

No Lady member had held office in the Club, other than that of Patroness, until Anne Baillie became Vice-President in 1992 and President in 1995.

6. THE INDOOR ICE AGE

Even before the Club was formed, experiments with artificial indoor ice were taking place. The first match on such ice was played in Manchester in 1877 and two years later in 1879 there opened the 'Glaciarium' at Southport in Lancashire which was used for both curling and skating. The owners had great ambitions and expected it to become "*the Lords of curling*". It thrived for a time but went out of business in 1890 largely due to the ready availability of good outside ice at that time which curlers preferred, and which had the added advantage of being free.

The first indoor ice rink in Scotland, at Crossmyloof in Glasgow, opened on 1st October 1907 and Airthrey were present in the form of Rev. R. Menzies Fergusson who skipped a rink from Scottish Central Province in the inaugural match. One speaker on this grand occasion, quoting Shakespeare in abbreviated form, declared "*Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious*". For some years the annual international match against England was held at this rink and in 1908 England recorded their first victory in this event.

By the start of the war in 1914 new rinks had opened in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Manchester, and London. At that time the game was quite widely played in England and even Dr W. G. Grace, the noted cricketer, was listed as a member of Crystal Palace Curling Club.

During the war most of the ice rinks were closed or used for other purposes but reopened by the early 1920's. In the mid 1930's there was another upsurge in curling and new ice rinks opened at Perth, Dundee, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, and on 30th November 1938, at Falkirk. In 1944 admission to the Falkirk rink was seven pence and the charge for curling was three shillings for three hours. During the 1939-45 war, play never ceased completely but no grand matches could be held despite the season 1939-40 producing the most severe winter since 1895.

Like most other clubs, Airthrey emerged from the war in reduced state, and in 1947 an approach was made to Bridge of Allan Curling Club suggesting an amalgamation but, perhaps fortunately in view of the healthy state of the Club in later years, this was rejected. Curiously, about five years later, Bridge of Allan approached Airthrey with a similar proposal which was also turned down.

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In 1949 subscriptions were received from only seventeen members to produce a total income of eleven pounds ten shillings and nine pence. The club archives contain a letter from solicitors in Edinburgh on behalf of the Royal Club regretting that they could not agree to a request from the club to waive payment of arrears of subscription payable by Airthrey but would allow repayment to be spread over a number of years. In 1950 the club's artificial pond was finally abandoned and virtually all curling then took place at Falkirk.

In 1951 Hamish Tullis, whose father had also been a member for many years, became President, with Tommy Muir as Secretary, Douglas Middleton as Treasurer, and Fergus Henderson as Match Secretary. They were successful in restoring the Club to its former size and financial stability and since then Airthrey has always maintained a membership list of about fifty which keeps it as one of the larger clubs in the area. Most of the play was at Falkirk with occasional excursions to Perth and a few games on the outdoor rink at Keir.

The arrangement to play on the Keir pond later led to a joint effort with Keir to raise money to install lighting at their pond. Airthrey's records include a copy of the printed menu for a joint Supper and Curlers' Court in 1955 on which is a note, possibly in the writing of Harnish Tullis, which says *"Organised to pay for lighting at Keir pond. Airlhrey did all the work and the pond was never used at night!"*.

At a special meeting in 1958, it was agreed to start a Central Province League to be played at Falkirk on Monday evenings. The clubs involved were Airthrey, Blairdrummond, Callander, Doune, Dunblane, Bridge of Allan, and Keir. Other clubs have come and gone from this league from time to time but these seven clubs still compete in this league more than forty years later.

In the mid-sixties new ice rinks were built at Hamilton, Aviemore, and Lockerbie but by 1974 the ice making plant at the Falkirk rink was in need of extensive and costly repairs which the owning company claimed it could not afford. In fact the rink struggled on, in a deteriorating condition, until 1977 when it suddenly closed without prior notice to clubs. George Barclay, then club Secretary, heard this news one evening and immediately drove to Kinross to book all the ice he could get for Airthrey. Only this prompt action saved the club from the fate of others in the area who were effectively cut off from all curling for several years. Indeed Airthrey was able to help some other local clubs by inviting them to play matches at Kinross.

AIRTHREY CASTLE CURLING CLUB - A HISTORY

Immediately after the Falkirk closure, meetings of curlers in the Stirling area began to consider the possibility of promoting the building of a new rink in the town. George Barclay was much involved with the early planning and served on the organising committee. With excellent support from the curling community in buying shares to raise the required capital, the Stirling rink opened for curling and skating in the autumn of 1980 and has traded successfully ever since under the management of Danny MacMillan. Airthrey has played almost all its games there except for annual outings to Perth and, until recently, to Kinross

AIRTHREY CASTLE CURLING CLUB - A HISTORY

7. CLUB TROPHIES.

Airthrey Castle is fortunate in possessing a fine collection of club trophies, many of which were gifted to the club by prominent members or patrons. Oldest of these is the Rosebowl, a large and ornate silver plated bowl. This is engraved on the front *"Presented by George Buchanan Esq. of Arden 25.9.1885 to be played for by the Airthrey Castle and Bridge of Allan Curling Club"*. (Presumably the last word should have read "Clubs"). On the reverse is further inscribed *"Won by A.C.C.C. on the only three occasions this trophy was competed for and thus became the club property 20.1.1886"*. Names of winning skips are engraved on the base only from 1953 onwards so there is no record of what happened to the bowl between 1886 and 1953.

In 1891 Donald Graham of Airthrey presented a large and magnificently decorated silver plated two-handled cup with an engraved curling scene on the rear. The lid is surmounted with a figure of a curler holding stone and brush. It is inscribed on the front *"Challenge Cup Presented to the Airthrey Castle Curling Club by Donald Graham Esq., C.I.E. of Airthrey Castle 1891"*. The wooden base bears a plate engraved "Graham Cup" and lists the names of winning skips since 1892. The trophy is complete with a large polished hardwood carrying case which has sometimes been likened to a small coffin.

The title "Royal Cup" might suggest that the club had benefited from royal patronage but in fact the reference is to the Royal Hotel in Bridge of Allan, used so long as the club's headquarters. This trophy is an ornate silver plated bowl which carries the inscription *"Royal Cup. Presented to Airthrey Castle Curling Club by J. D. T. Tullis and F. C. Henderson on Hogmanay 1957"*. Fergus Henderson was at the time the proprietor of the Royal Hotel and himself an active curler. There was a long established practice that occasional members skip the rinks in this competition. Now that the distinction between regular and occasional members has been abolished this tradition is maintained in that the eight elected club skips do not skip in this event. Again there is a base with names of winning skips.

The annual points competition, in which individual members pit their skills against each other rather than as part of a rink, is played for a most attractive small silver cup with a lid. It is engraved *"Airthrey Castle Curling Club. Points Trophy. Presented by C. J. Wailer Esq., March 1964"*. Charles Waller had been President in 1959-1961.

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For more than twenty years club members have enjoyed an annual weekend away playing in a competition at another ice rink. Over the years this event has taken us to Aviemore, Inverness, Lochgoilhead, Pitlochry, and most recently Arbroath. In 1968 Bobby Littlejohn presented a tankard as a prize for the winning rink.

In 1988 the committee decided that new trophies were required for the Autumn and Spring league competitions which had by then become well established. Club funds were used to purchase these and it was agreed to name them in honour of two long standing and distinguished members of the club. The Hamish Tullis Quaich for the autumn league is a handsome pewter quaich and the Finlay Anderson Salver is a fine silver plated salver. These are now presented for the two most closely fought competitions in the club's year.

Most recent of the club prizes is the Pairs Trophy. This was designed by members of the committee and comprises a circular turned hardwood block with a silver band and a miniature curling stone mounted on the top. It was purchased from club funds once it became obvious that the Pairs competition introduced at the suggestion of the Author in 1992 was proving popular.

As well as the trophies for the internal competitions of the club, there are a number of others which pertain to annual matches against neighbouring clubs. The most unusual of these is the Airthrey Ladle which is played for against Keir Curling Club. This is an elegant silver toddy ladle with a long slender ebony handle. It is possible that it may originally have belonged with the Rosebowl which, despite the name by which it is now known, might well have been intended for toddy or punch. It has no inscription but is keenly contested every year with the balance of advantage in recent years being heavily weighted towards Keir.

The Lee Cup is contested annually with Bridge of Allan and is the property of that club. It was originally presented in 1882 by Mr A. H. Lee of Blairhoyle for competition between Bridge of Allan and Port of Mentieth, a club no longer in existence. It appears in a photograph of members of the Bridge of Allan club in the 1894-95 season which is reproduced in the Bridge of Allan club history published in 1990.

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The Wilkie Salver relates to an annual match against Torbrex Curling Club. It was kindly presented by Catherine Wilkie, still an active member of Airthrey, in memory of her late husband Andrew who curled with Airthrey for many years.

The Nelson Trophy was originally presented in 1923 by Mr Robert Nelson of Bridge of Allan to be played for by four local clubs, Bridge of Allan, Airthrey, Dunblane, and Dunblane Thistle. Due to lack of frost it was not actually played for until 1929 by which time Mr Nelson had sadly died following a fall at the Edinburgh Ice Rink. In 1958 it was handed over to Central Province for the new league competition for which it is still used. Airthrey members are not too familiar with this trophy as the club has never managed to win it!

The Graham Trophy, which was presented to Bridge of Allan Curling Club, is similar to the Graham Cup. It was played for within that club until the 1930's and after the war was deposited, along with the Lee Cup, in the vaults of the Clydesdale Bank in Bridge of Allan from which it only emerged in 1970 when it was put up for annual competition between Bridge of Allan, Airthrey, Keir, and Standing Stones a short lived club based in Stirling University. Standing Stones were later replaced by Blairdrummond. Airthrey have won this competition for the last two years.

The Morton Cup is played against Borestone and Stirling Curling Club. It is a two-handled silver plated cup with a lid on which stands a rather crudely cast figure of a curler which may not be original. It is engraved "The James Morton Cup" and was presented by Jimmy Morton of the old established, but sadly now extinct, Stirling firm of Graham and Morton. It has been played for every year since 1969 with Airthrey having rather the better of the results so far.

Appendix 2 contains lists of the winners of the Airthrey trophies up to the date of this book.

8. MORE AIRTHREY CHARACTERS.

President of the club from 1929 to his death in 1939 was Mr Robert Whyte who had come to Stirling in 1881 as a newly qualified solicitor to join the legal practice of Mr Alexander Hill. In time he became senior partner of the firm which then took the title Hill and Whyte with offices in King Street. The firm still exists as Hill and Robb. Robert Whyte was among those responsible for the establishment of a library in Stirling and served as Chairman of the Stirling Library Committee. Among the tributes to him in the local press was one by Norman Hay Brown, partner in another well known Stirling law firm, Jenkins and Jardine, and also a member of Airthrey.

Whyte's successor as President was Robert Jenner. Curiously, while Bentley Murray never became President of Airthrey, Robert Jenner who was coachman and later chauffeur to the Murray family for fifty years, served as President from 1939 to 1948. Jenner, who had earlier been second coachmen to the Stirlings of Keir and had also been in the service of Dr Haldane, was known as a grower of prize winning chrysanthemums and became President of the Stirling Co-operative Society.

Last in the line of Logie ministers to be closely associated with the club was Rev. Walter McIntyre. He had started his career as a businessman in shipping circles in Glasgow and had a distinguished military record, joining the KOSB as a private and rising to the rank of Captain. He was appointed as Minister at Logie in 1921 and served there for twenty-eight years. He appears to have joined Airthrey and been appointed as club Chaplain immediately on arrival and possibly, in view of the record of his predecessors, he was not given much choice in the matter. He was a regular player and also served the club as Secretary and as Vice-President at various times.

J.D.T.(Hamish) Tullis became a member in 1947 and took over as President in 1951. His Father, Major J. Kennedy Tullis, had been a member before the war and his nephew Ken Tullis was also an Airthrey curler for some years. The family company in Tullibody was originally a tannery but later moved into plastics. Hamish and his fellow officers of the club were successful in ensuring that Airthrey recovered from the poor position which had resulted from the war. He was a formidable skip who could sometimes be a little scathing if his players did not perform to the standards he expected. Although he stood down as President in 1956

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he remained an active club member for forty years until his death in 1987. For twelve years he served as President of Scottish Central Province.

The other leading member of the post-war era was Finlay Anderson who joined in 1952 and lived at Mount Hope in Bridge of Allan. Finlay had worked in China before the war and saw war service as a Lt. Colonel. He served two periods as President between 1956 and 1971, and in 1989 was made Honorary President. Finlay Anderson and Hamish Tullis were friends and sparring partners both on the ice and off. In their later years, after they had both ceased to curl, they still regularly attended the A.G.M. of the club and usually entertained the members by having an argument about something. Finlay died in 1993 and with his passing another era in the history of Airthrey came to an end.

Of those members who are still active in 1998 the longest serving by far is John Stewart. The account books of the club show him as having joined in 1960. He became Vice-President in 1971 and President in 1974, an office he held for thirteen years, a period exceeded only by Col. Hare of Blairlogie who was President for no less than thirty eight years from 1891. John has also been a member of the Bridge of Allan and Keir clubs and in 1977 he became President of Scottish Central Province, a position which he still holds. He was a successful senior skip for many years and still plays a canny game of curling. Since 1995 he has held the position of Honorary President of the club.

John's great rival on the ice, and his Vice-President for many years, was McGregor Robertson who had joined Airthrey in 1950. Gregor, as he was generally known, ran the local joinery and undertaking firm of Robertson and Ramsay in Bridge of Allan and was a very well known local character. Until he retired and his firm ceased trading he provided storage at his workshop for the Airthrey stock of outdoor stones and equipment. On the ice he and John Stewart battled it out in many a keenly fought game but the combination of the two of them in one rink was sometimes a daunting experience for the more junior members as they were prone to disagree profoundly on the tactics of the game or on the exact amount of ice required for the next shot.

John Stewart was eventually succeeded as President by Ray Braithwaite, perhaps the first Englishman to preside over the club. Ray came to the area as Managing Director of Walter Alexander the bus builders in Falkirk and became a great enthusiast for the game. As well

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as his club activities Ray also served for eight years as Secretary of Area 6 of the Royal Club. Ray retired to the Lake District a few years ago when he was made an Honorary member but still comes up to Scotland to take part in the annual weekend competition at a distant ice rink.

Club Secretary for ten years from 1977, George Barclay gave great service to the club through a period of considerable change. George was a partner in the Quantity Surveying firm of Wilkinson and Lowe whose office facilities were frequently diverted to the benefit of Airthrey. After joining the club in 1972 he quickly showed an aptitude for the game and rose to be a skip. On the ice he was always an aggressive and enthusiastic player and as a skip his booming voice never left his rink in any doubt when sweeping was required. George was President for two years and more recently was made an Honorary Member in recognition of all his work for the club. He remains an excellent judge of a running stone.

Bridge of Allan Curling Club is considerably older than Airthrey and celebrated its bicentenary in 1990. To mark this occasion Jim Paton their President, who had also for many years been a member of Airthrey, was made an Honorary member.

Club Secretaries tend to be the unsung heroes who do much of the work in any club and this is certainly true of curling. In recent years Airthrey has been well served in this area firstly by George Baillie and then, since 1993, by Bill Strang. Strangely both of them are, like George Barclay, Quantity Surveyors,. There must be something in the methodical training needed for that profession which makes them eminently suited to managing the affairs of a curling club.

Your author, Alex. Campbell, was Vice-President from 1987 to 1992 and President from 1992 to 1995. A civil engineer, he was, until retiring in 1994, Managing Director of locally based construction company A. R. Campbell (Construction) Ltd. As President he introduced the Pairs event to the club and also arranged for the production of the engraved glasses which are now presented as prizes for the major club competitions. These glasses show an outline of Airthrey Castle to a design kindly prepared by Alan Harrison, an architect and member, and which is reproduced on the front cover of this book.

9. THE SOCIAL SCENE.

Curling is a sociable game and Airthrey Castle has always been a sociable club whose members enjoy each other's company off the ice as well as on. From the earliest days of the club there have been social functions of various kinds.

The first Annual Dinner was held in the Wallace Arms at Causewayhead with the founder President, Laurence Pullar, in the chair. *After "a sumptuous repast"* he proposed the toast of *"Success to the New Club"*. The Chaplain, Rev. D. Imrie, replied and proposed a toast to the Patron Lord Abercromby. Such dinners seem to have been a regular event in the early years.

In 1888 three representatives of the club led by Dr Haldane attended the golden jubilee dinner of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club where the Marquis of Bute was in the chair. In his speech Lord Bute referred to a charge brought against the Episcopal Bishop of Orkney in 1638 that he had broken the Sabbath by curling on that day. The charge had been found unproved. In January 1890 Mr Pullar, Dr Haldane, and the Rev. Menzies Fergusson attended the centenary dinner of Bridge of Allan Curling Club which was chaired by Donald Graham of Airthrey the Patron of both clubs. Sadly, Mr Graham's son, Capt. Donald Graham, also a member of Airthrey Castle, was killed in action in the First World War.

The jubilee of the club was marked by a dinner in the Queens Hotel, Bridge of Allan, on 1st March 1929 when members were entertained by Mr Charles Donaldson, then the proprietor of Airthrey Castle. The company included Mr J. G. Hunter the custodian of the Wallace Monument who had previously been the only curling coach in the British Army. *After "a delightful dinner nicely served"* there followed a toast list of enormous length. Dr J. F. Barr, proposing the toast to the Royal Club, talked of an occasion in wartime France when, with brother Scots, he had an impromptu game of Curling using bricks. Introducing Bentley Murray to reply Dr Barr said that *"his quiet manner and gentle voice ensured him a patient hearing"*. Mr Murray said that the influence of the Royal Club had spread over the civilised world and even to some semi-civilised areas such as the USA. After the recent grand match at Carsebreck two Chinese gentlemen, one the Director of Education for Mongolia, had purchased stones, besoms, and a rule book with the intention of introducing the game to that country. He hoped they had not forgotten the other essential - whisky.

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Mr Andrew Wardlaw, proposing the toast to the club, mentioned their distinguished member Mr Pat Lowe as a great sportsman and enthusiast who, having delayed his departure to London on business in the hope of frost, departed one evening from Stirling on the night train. Alighting in the early hours at Wigan for a breath of air he observed that the sky had cleared, the wind had turned to the North, and the air was colder. He promptly transferred himself to a Northbound train and presented himself at home for breakfast, to the considerable surprise of his wife, before heading out for a day's curling.

The Secretary, Major Gordon, in replying addressed himself to the younger curlers and asked them to uphold outdoor curling as played in Scotland as long as Scotland lasted. *"Haymarket and Crossmyloof might be tempting but for Heavens sake stick to outdoor curling"*. After numerous other toasts, and songs from various members, the evening must have drawn to a close at a very late hour especially as a Curlers Court to admit a number of young curlers to the ancient arts was also held. The archives of the club contain copies of the invitation and the menu card for this dinner. The meal comprised Cock-a-Leekie Soup, Haggis, Beef and Greens, Braised Ox-Tongue, Fruit Pudding, and Cheese.

In 1938 the club was represented at the Centenary dinner of the RCCC in the Music Rooms in Edinburgh, as it was also in 1988 when Ray Braithwaite and Alex. Campbell attended the 150th anniversary dinner in Glasgow.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the club was celebrated with a Dinner and Curlers' Court on 9th December 1953. The report of this function in the local newspaper noted the outstanding reputation of Airthrey social functions among the local curling fraternity. Speakers included Hamish Tullis, Rev. John Scoff, and Douglas Middleton who replied on behalf of the young curlers.

Airthrey has been foremost in the local area in maintaining the old traditions of the Curlers' Court and has held such a function every few years to ensure that its own members are fully initiated into the mysteries of this ancient game. Some other clubs have never held a Court in living memory and have relied on Airthrey to ensure that at least some of their members are made true curlers. At a Supper and Court in December 1955 over twenty local clubs were represented among those attending.

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In the 1950's and 1960's every year included at least one Court, or a Ladies Night and Dance. In 1960 Hamish Tullis, as President of Central Province, hosted a dinner at the Royal Hotel to welcome a Canadian touring team. Pipers and dancers from the Queen Victoria School provided entertainment.

The Queens Hotel was the venue for a Supper and Court in 1962 chaired by Hamish Tullis and with Norman Hay-Brown as M'Lord. Initiation was by Hamish Tullis and Marshall Muirhead and unusually involved the use of a cattle float. John Stewart and the then Club Secretary Jim Shaw were among those made.

A particularly successful Dinner and Court was held in the Allan Water Hotel in 1971. One of the speakers was Robin Welsh the Secretary of the Royal Club who brought with him his uncle Dr Willie Welsh the former Bridge of Allan GP who lived at Coniston in Kenilworth Road. Dr Welsh, then in his nineties, was at the time the oldest living Scottish Rugby internationalist and had started his medical career in the town in partnership with Dr Haldane. At the Court, Hamish Tullis was M'Lord and the initiation was in the capable hands of Finlay Anderson assisted by John Stewart and Gregor Robertson. The Young Curlers were addressed by Rev. John Scott who assured them that he would be available to perform the last rites if the experience should prove too much for them.

Another Court in the Royal Hotel in November 1978 admitted to the brotherhood of curling such stalwarts of the club in subsequent years as George Barclay, George Baillie, Alex. Campbell, Ray Braithwaite, Ian Macdonald, and Sandy Macpherson.

In 1979 a dinner took place, again at the Royal Hotel, to celebrate the centenary of the club's admission to the RCCC. Dancing followed until 1 a.m. The toast to the club was given by the President of the RCCC, Capt. J.C.L. Anderson, and the reply by the club President John Stewart. Hamish Tullis proposed the toast to the Royal Club which was responded to by Robin Welsh.

The most recent Court was held on 10th November 1994 when John Stewart was M'Lord and the young curlers were instructed by George Barclay and initiated by Alex. Campbell and George Baillie. In recent years an informal supper dance has been held each year in the Terraces Hotel in Stirling but the time for another Court must surely be approaching when any members ignorant of the mysteries can be suitably educated.

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Uniquely perhaps for a curling club, Airthrey has for quite a number of years held a club summer barbeque. This event, started by Ray Braithwaite, brings the members together for a sociable evening at a time of year when they would not otherwise meet and has always been well attended. Until Ray retired to the North of England it was held each year at Parkhead, his attractive house on the fringe of Sheriffmuir. Following that it was held for several years at Alex. Campbell's house at Blair Drummond and most recently at the home of Hugh and Kay O'Neill in Bridge of Allan. On one or two occasions the weather has forced members to take shelter in a barn but a successful event was still achieved.

The club archives contain an interesting collection of printed menus from many functions over the years.

AIRTHREY CASTLE CURLING CLUB - A HISTORY

10. THE FUTURE.

Writing of the activities of the club over a period of one hundred and twenty years inevitably leads one to wonder what the future may hold for Airthrey. There have been peaks and hollows in the past, but for a good many years Airthrey Castle has maintained a strong membership list and a steady level of seasonal activity.

In the last few years there has been a slight decline in curling in general with some clubs suffering a fall in membership and a reduction in enthusiasm from those members remaining. So far Airthrey has been fortunate largely to escape this trend but the present membership will need to remain active in seeking new members. It would probably be true to say that the average age of the membership is higher than it used to be and it is quite difficult to attract new younger members into curling.

The management of Stirling Ice Rink always detect a sharp increase in skating when there has been wide coverage of that sport on television. The introduction of curling as a full medal sport at the 1998 winter Olympic Games has recently attracted the widest television coverage ever given to the game and perhaps this will have a similar effect.

Writing during the warmest February on record it is difficult to contemplate any possibility of outdoor curling. However, Airthrey remains one of the fortunate clubs which has all the necessary equipment safely stowed away in hope that the right conditions will one day return. The few current members who have played outdoors know what a very special experience this was and would certainly exhort future generations to take any chance of such play which may arise.

Curling is an ancient, and particularly Scottish, game and Airthrey is by no means the oldest of clubs. It does however have a proud record of sportsmanship and fellowship and it is sincerely to be hoped that the club trophies will continue to have engraved upon them the names of winning skips for many a year to come.

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11. TAILPIECES.

A club in Kilmarnock had in 1824 as one of its rules "*Members not attending meeting to be fined two pence - working not to be an excuse*".

A book 'Curling - The Ancient Scottish Game' by James Taylor published in Edinburgh in 1887 contains a chapter entitled "*A Description of the Game of Curling for the instruction of Englishmen and Novices*".

Items from a list of 'don'ts' for Airthrey curlers in 1929

- don't let your stone fall with a crash. If you dig a grave in the ice the other players will be fully justified in utilising you to provide the requisite corpse.
- don't bring sand or earth on to the ice with your boots
- don't argue with your skip. He may be, and probably is, an escaped lunatic who knows far less about the game than you do. Still he is your skip and must be obeyed.
- don't come on to the ice without a cowe - a neatly tied one.
- don't sweep until your skip tells you to.
- don't sweep an inch after your skip orders 'up cowes'.
- don't utter an oath or imprecation, or lose your temper.
- don't cry if you make a bad shot. Salt water injures the ice.

The 'Rules and By-Laws' of the club, which date from 1936, include detailed arrangements for play on the artificial rinks and a clause which empowers the Committee to expel "*any obnoxious member*". Fortunately there is no record of this power ever being used.

APPENDIX I - LIST OF CLUB OFFICERS

President

1878-1882	Laurence Pullar.
1882-1883	Dr. Haldane.
1883-1885	Thomas Cumming
1885-1887	H. Knox Dick.
1887-1888	J. Henry Douglas.
1888-1890	Nathaniel Spens.
1890-1891	Donald Graham.
1891-1929	Col. Hare of Blairlogie.
1929-1939	Robert Whyte.
1939-1948	Robert Jenner.
1948-1950	W. H. Gillespie.
1950-1951	W. S. Kerr.
1951-1956	Hamish Tullis.
1956-1959	M. W. Finlay Anderson.
1959-1961	Charles Wailer.
1961-1971	M. W. Finlay Anderson.
1971-1974	David Shaw.
1974-1987	John W. M. Stewart.
1987-1990	Ray Braithwaite.
1990-1992	George Barclay.
1992-1995	Alex. R. Campbell.
1995-1998	Anne Baillie.
1998-	Charles Croall

Patron

1878-1890	Rt. Hon. Lord Abercromby.
1890-1910	Donald Graham of Airthrey.
1929-1939	Charles Donaldson.
1945-1948	Maj. Gen. Sir S. W. Hare.
1948- ?	Col. Hugh B. Spens.

Honorary President

1963-1975	W. S. Kerr
1975-1989	Douglas F. Middleton.
1989-1993.	M. W. Finlay Anderson.
1995-	John W. M. Stewart.

Vice President

1878-1883	James Gow.
1883-1884	Rev. D. N. Imrie.
1884-1885	H. Knox Dick.
1885-1886	George Buchanan.
1886-1887	A. Robertson.
1887-1888	James Gow.
1888-1889	F. Pitman.
1889-1890	Donald Graham.
1890-1891	James Graham.
1891-1914	Dr. Haldane.
1914-1929	Robert Whyte.
1929-1935	D. Bentley Murray.
1935-1939	Andrew M. Wardlaw.
1939-1945	not known.
1945-1948	Rev. Walter McIntyre.
1948-1949	Hugh Forrester
1949-1955	not known.
1955 -1956	M. W. Finlay Anderson.
1956-1964	Hamish Tullis.
1964-1969	Charles Wailer.
1969 -1971	David Shaw.
1971-1974	John W. M Stewart.
1974 -1985	McGregor Robertson
1987-1992	Alex. R Campbell.
1992-1995	Anne Baillie
1995-1998	Charles Croall.

Patroness

1878-1890	Lady Abercromby.
1890 -1932	Mrs Graham of Airthrey.
1932 -1946	Mrs Charles Donaldson.
1948-1947	Mrs Hugh B. Spens.

Chaplain

1878-1885	Rev. D. N. Imrie.
1885-1921	Rev.R.Menzies Fergusson.
1921-1949	Rev. Walter McIntyre.
1951-1991	Rev. John Scott.

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Honorary Secretary.

1878-1880	Thomas Cumming.
1880-1883	John Main.
1883-1885	A. Dick Clelland.
1885-1886	G. C. Alexander.
1886-1889	Thomas Cumming.
1889-1891	Robert Whyte.
1891-1920	Rev. R. Menzies Fergusson.
1920-1923	E. J. Sim.
1923-1928	J. Rodger.
1928-1936	Maj. A. A. Gordon.
1936-1946	W. H. Gillespie.
1946-1947	William Clark.
1947-1948	Rev. Walter McIntyre.
1948-1949	Robert Turner.
1949-1951	John W. Maitland.
1951-1952	Thomas Galloway.
1952-1955	Thomas Muir.
1955-1960	W. K. Wilson.
1960-1977	Jim Shaw.
1977-1987	George Barclay.
1987-1988	John W. M. Stewart.
1988-1990	Alistair Paul.
1990-1993	George Baillie.
1993-	Bill Strang.

Match Secretary.

1955-1964	Fergus Henderson.
1964-1974	John Stewart.
1974-1980	Douglas Dawson.
1980-1985	Ian Macdonald.

APPENDIX II – NAMES OF WINNING SKIPS

Rosebowl

1953 Thomas Muir
1956 C. J. Waller
1957 F. C. Henderson
1958 C. J. Waller.
1959 McG. Robertson
1960 McG. Robertson
1961 C. J. Waller.
1962 H. K. Symington.
1963 M. W. F. Anderson.
1964 H. K. Symington.
1965 C. J. Waller.
1966 McG. Robertson.
1967 J. W. M. Stewart.
1968 D. D. Shaw.
1969 M. W. F. Anderson.
1970 McG. Robertson.
1971 M. W. F. Anderson.
1972 John Symington.
1973 J. D. T. Tullis.
1974 T. F. M. Rae.
1975 J. W. M. Stewart.
1976 J. D. T. Tullis.
1977 McG. Robertson.
1978 J. W. M. Stewart.
1979 D. R. G. Dawson.
1980 McG. Robertson.
1981 A. F. McPherson
1982 I. McNish.
1983 MeG. Robertson.
1984 G. Balilie.
1985 K. Tullis.
1986 R. E. H. Braithwaite.
1987 J. Gilchrist.
1988 R. E. H. Braithwaite.
1989 K. E. Balfour.
1990 Mrs A. Baillie.
1991 A. R. Campbell.
1992 Mrs A. Baillie.
1993 A. R. Campbell.
1994 G. A. Baillie.
1995 J. Gilchrist
1996 W Strang
1997 C Croal

Royal Cup

1958 J. M Muirhead.
1959 J M. Muirhead.
1960 J. M. Muirhead.
1961 A. L.G. Robertson.
1962 J. M. Muirhead.
1963 G. Poison.
1964 J. S. Buchanan.
1965 G. Polson.
1966 J. S. Buchanan.
1967 J. S. Buchanan.
1968 G. A. Scott.
1969 J. M. Muirhead.
1970 J. S. Buchanan.
1971 J. King.
1972 W. F. Buchanan.
1973 W. F. Buchanan.
1974 G. Polson.
1975 W. Adamson.
1976 A. F. McPherson.
1977 A. F McPherson.
1978 A. F McPherson.
1979 J. P. H. Paton
1980 R. Comrie
1981 D. MacFarlane
1982 A. F McPherson.
1983 J. P. H Paton.
1984 M. West
1985 G. B. Shearer.
1986 D. McFarlane.
1987 Mrs A. Conlan.
1988 J. N. E. Rankin.
1989 C. Croall.
1990 C. Cheyne.
1991 C. Croall.
1992 A. Galloway.
1993 A. Paul.
1994 L. Christiansen.
1995 H. McCrea.
1996 A. McDonald.
1997 Mrs P. Nairn.

APPENDIX II – NAMES OF WINNING SKIPS

Points Trophy.

1964	G. A. Scott.
1965	G. A. Scott.
1966	J. Anderson.
1967	A. R. Fielder
1968	G. Polson.
1970	G. Polson.
1971	G. Polson.
1972	J. Peace.
1973	McG. Robertson.
1974	G. W. Barclay.
1975	J. W. M. Stewart.
1976	McG. Robertson.
1978	J. W. M. Stewart.
1979	A. F. McPherson.
1980	A. F. McPherson
1981	G. W. Barclay.
1982	J. W. M. Stewart.
1983	R. Comrie.
1984	B. J. T. Morris.
1985	A. F. McPherson
1986	M. McFarlane.
1987	K. W. Tullis.
1988	C. T. A. Cheyne.
1989	Mrs A. Baillie.
1990	M. Queen.
1991	A. F. McPherson
1992	A. F. McPherson
1993	L. Christiansen,
1994	A. R. Campbell.
1995	C. Croall.
1996	T. Wilson.
1997	A. R. Campbell.
1998	C. Croall.

Hamish Tullis Quaich.

1988	G. A. Baillie.
1989	R. Sutton.
1990	J. W. M. Stewart.
1991	Mrs A. Baillie.
1992	J. Gilchrist.
1993	G. A. Baillie.
1994	C. Croall.
1995	A. Galloway.
1996	T. Wilson.
1997	Mrs A. Baillie.

Littlejohn Trophy.

1968	P. Anderson.
1969	J. Buchanan.
1970	McG. Robertson.
1971	McG. Robertson.
1973	McG. Robertson.
1974	J. W. M. Stewart.
1976	W. Adamson.
1977	J. W. M. Stewart.
1979	G. W. Barclay.
1981	J. W. M. Stewart.
1982.	J. N. E. Rankin.
1983	J. N. E. Rankin.
1984	A. R. Campbell.
1985	G. W. Barclay.
1986	B. J. T. Morris.
1987	Mrs A. Baillie.
1988	Mrs A. Baillie.
1990	A. R. Campbell.
1991	Mrs A. Baillie.
1992	A. R. Campbell.
1993	R. E. H. Braithwaite.
1994	A. R. Campbell.
1995	C. Croall.
1996	A. Galloway.
1997	A. R. Campbell.

Finlay Anderson Salver.

1989	R. Sutton.
1990	A. R. Campbell.
1991	A. R. Campbell.
1992	L. Ferguson.
1993	A. R. Campbell.
1994	A. R. Campbell.
1995	A. Galloway.
1996	A. Galloway
1997	C. Croall.
1998	J. Armstrong.

APPENDIX II – NAMES OF WINNING SKIPS

Graham Cup

1892 J H. Henderson.
1893 Peter McAra.
1895 P. R. Lowe.
1897 P. R. Lowe.
1899 James Dawson.
1900 P. R. Lowe.
1902 D. Bentley Murray.
1903 R. Jenner.
1908 William Anderson.
1910 William Anderson.
1912 Tom Anderson.
1929 R. Jenner.
1951 W. Brown.
1952 J. D. T. Tullis.
1953 Thomas Muir.
1954 J. D. T. Tullis.
1955 C. J. Wailer.
1956 Fergus Henderson.
1957 Fergus Henderson.
1958 C. J. Wailer.
1959 D. Cameron.
1960 J. M. Muirhead.
1961 M. W. F. Anderson.
1962 J. D. T. Tullis.
1963 McG. Robertson.
1964 J. W. M. Stewart.
1965 J. W. M. Stewart.
1966 J. W. M. Stewart.
1967 H. K. Symington.
1968 J. W. M. Stewart.
1969 McG. Robertson.
1970 J. Shaw.
1971 J. W. M. Stewart.
1972 J. Shaw.
1973 H. K. Symington.
1974 McG. Robertson.
1975 J. Shaw.
1976 D. R. G. Dawson.
1977 J. W. M. Stewart.
1978 G. W. Barclay.
1979 W. S. Kerr.
1980 J. W. M. Stewart.
1981 J. W. M. Stewart.
1982 Mrs I Young

1983 G. A. Baillie.
1984 G. W. Barclay.
1985 G. W. Barclay.
1986 J. W. M. Stewart.
1987 A. R. Campbell.
1988 A. R. Campbell.
1989 J. Gilchrist.
1990 J. W. M. Stewart.
1991 J. W. M. Stewart.
1992 L. Ferguson.
1993 Mrs A. Baillie.
1994 J. Gilchrist.
1995 A. R. Campbell.
1996 Mrs A. Baillie.
1997 M. Queen.

Pairs Trophy

1992 A. Galloway/W. Strang
1993 A. Baillie/D. Nairn.
1994 C. Croall/L Tasker.
1995 A. Baillie/R. Sinclair.
1996 C. Croall/M. Croall.
1997 J. Armstrong/M. Croall