



# History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club



Joe Kincaid

Sauchie & Bannockburn Curling Club

2013

## Table of Contents

List of Figures .....	4
Outdoor Curling .....	6
First Recorded Match.....	7
No Suitable Home. ....	7
Support from Patrons of the Game. ....	9
Points make prizes, Club Medals and Curling Stones. ....	9
J Dick Medal Annual Matches with Denny Greens. ....	12
Polmaise Trophy.....	12
District Medal Matches.....	13
Province Matches.....	14
Grand Matches.....	16
Wauk Mill Curling Pond .....	17
A Step Too Far.....	20
Transition from Outdoor to Indoor Curling .....	21
Indoor Curling .....	22
Indoor Province Competitions .....	22
Indoor Points Matches Make More Prizes.....	23
The Rise of Club Curling, New Club Trophies.....	25
The Mitchell Wilson Trophy.....	26
The David Miller Cup.....	26
The Corrieri Cup .....	26
Muirhead Trophy .....	27
The Annual Match, Inter-Club Competitions.....	27
D.D. Paterson (1866) Medal.....	28
Presidents' Match, Cairns-Elder Trophy .....	28
Polmaise Trophy continued. ....	29
David Robertson Trophy .....	30
Evolution of a New Competition, Stirling Tractors Ltd Cup .....	30
Most Successful Period 1967 - 1974 .....	34
Pairs Competition (A new way of playing).....	38
Falkirk Ice Rink Closure .....	38

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

A New Home, Stirling Ice Rink.....	40
NEW CURLING CLUB. ....	41
The Rules of the Club. ....	42
Club Resolutions .....	43
Club Membership.....	46
Curling Society .....	49
Curling Suppers .....	50
Anniversary Dinners.....	51
50 years .....	51
100 years.....	52
150 Years.....	55
Curlers Court. (The Mysteries).....	55
Presentation of Prizes .....	55
Fundraising and Social Club .....	56
Whist Drives and Dances .....	56
Curlers Outings.....	57
Theatre Evenings.....	58
Dinner Dances .....	58
Club Administration .....	59
Influential Servants of the Club.....	59
Club Finances .....	61
Making up Rinks.....	63
Club Badge .....	65
Curlers' Church Service .....	66
Participation in the Curling Community.....	66
Provinces.....	66
Royal Caledonian Curling Club .....	66
Summary .....	66
References .....	67

### Cover Pictures.

Sauchie and Bannockburn Curler wearing the club jacket playing a shot at the Peak Ice Rink, Stirling, 2012, taken by Graeme Anderson.

Sauchie and Bannockburn rink playing at Lake of Menteith Grand Match 1963. Players are left to right: George McInnes, Alex Bullions, Danny Taylor and Jimmy Muirhead. This picture interestingly shows the changing style of brush in the late '60's with George and Jimmy using the traditional broom, while Alex favours the more modern horse hair brush. Danny on the other hand appears to have borrowed his brush from a coal cellar. Taken from the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet.

## List of Figures

Figure 1 Total Number of Recorded Times People Played Curling on a Yearly Basis .....	6
Figure 2 Points Second Prize Medal    Figure 3 Points Second Prize Medal Obverse.....	11
Figure 4 Patroness Prize Handles from curling stones, 1912. Won by Dr J Morrison with 25 points. .	11
Figure 5 Stirling Observer, 13th February 1912 Sauchie & Bannockburn Curling Club rinks at Grand Match, Carsebreck. ....	17
Figure 6 All the club trophies .....	41
Figure 7 Map of Sauchie and Canglour Members (blue) and curling ponds used (yellow). ....	47
Figure 8 New Members in 1938 to 1939. ....	48
Figure 9 Annual Membership 1860 - 1990 .....	49
Figure 10 The Organising Committee of the Centenary Dinner .....	54
Figure 11 Advert, 24th November 1936, Stirling Observer. ....	57
Figure 12 Stirling Observer 21st December 1937, Committee Members and artistes, Annual Concert, Whist Drive and Dance.....	57
Figure 13 John Muirhead .....	60
Figure 14 W.D. Muirhead.....	60
Figure 15 Financial Health of the Club .....	61
Figure 16 Annual Subscription Charges .....	62
Figure 17 Stirling Ice Rink Share Certificate 177 owned by club.....	63
Figure 18 Club Badge .....	65

Note: The history of the club is also detailed on the club's website.

<https://sauchiebannockburn.weebly.com/history.html>



# History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

---

The Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club was formed in 1857 as the Sauchie and Canglour Curling Club at a meeting at Pirnhall Cottage (now the Pirnhall Inn). The attendees were locals from Bannockburn and the rural area to the south where the majority of them worked on farms or estates, specifically around the area of Canglour and Sauchie House itself. The curling initially took place at a pond in Barr Wood. The club joined the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (RCCC) in July 1860. Five years later a pond at an old distillery nearer Bannockburn was used. Difficulties with these ponds prompted a patron of the club to promote the use of a pond at Buckieburn by offering a splendid medal, but the Carron Valley location was too far away from most of the members. After defeating a motion to wind up the affairs of the club in 1870, the club eventually approached Sir A.C. Gibson Maitland regarding the granting of a possible location for creating their own curling pond. A site at Wauk Mill adjacent to the Bannock Burn and close to the village of Bannockburn itself was offered and the club sent a delegation to report on the suitability of the site and then subsequently commenced construction. In the July 1873 meeting of the Representatives Committee of the RCCC, the club was allowed to change its name from Sauchie and Canglour to Sauchie and Bannockburn to reflect its new location.

With a new curling pond in place the club slowly built up a playing relationship with a few neighbouring clubs with some coming to Wauk Mill to play. However the new pond and its upkeep also took the club into debt. It would take till 1891 for it to pay this debt off. In terms of playing, there were some successes as the new Sauchie and Bannockburn. The first District Medal was won playing Vellore at Larbert House pond, a match against Dundaff on Loch Coulter was won by 26 shots, the first Stirlingshire Province medal was won in 1886 with 41 shots up and the J. Dick Medal was finally won after 10 previous losses. However, defeats were many and several were heavy. The introduction of the Polmaise Trophy in 1895 provided a contest to decide the best curling club in the Stirling area and cemented relations with neighbour Borestone. On becoming Patroness of the club in 1896, Miss Maitland, later Lady Steel Maitland provided curling stones as prizes for Points competitions and these were keenly played for. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the playing record did improve slightly although there were still heavy defeats.

Having reluctantly played in two Grand Matches indoors at Crossmyloof Ice Rink in 1908 and 1909, the club inevitably became more involved in indoor curling when the Stirlingshire Province initiated the Aitken Trophy as an indoor competition in 1928 and the RCCC followed with their own competitions. For the 1931/32 season, the Secretary, W.D. Muirhead booked several rinks at Crossmyloof Ice Rink to allow the members to try out indoor ice and provide curling opportunities for the younger members not picked for outdoor club matches. After 1939, with the opening of the local Ice Rink in Falkirk, the emphasis was very much on indoor curling although Wauk Mill was still used up until 1947 for serious games.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

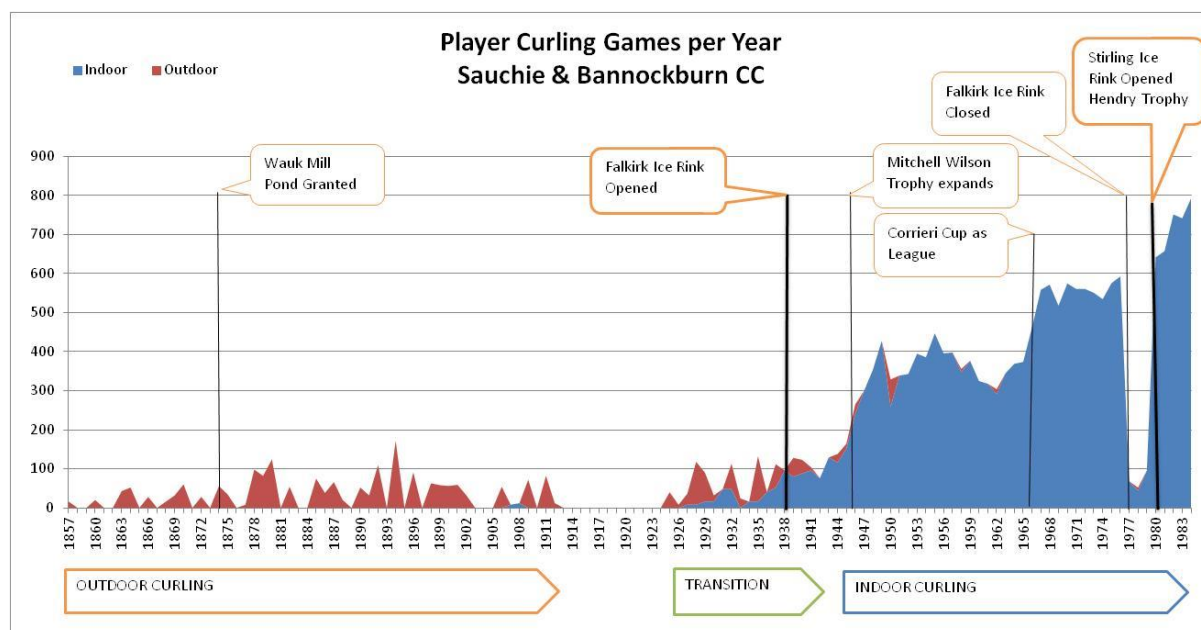


Figure 1 Total Number of Recorded Times People Played Curling on a Yearly Basis

By this time the original membership limit of fifty had been removed and there had been a considerable increase in membership. The much enlarged club took readily to indoor curling and the introduction of club trophies - the Mitchell-Wilson Trophy, David Miller Trophy and Corrieri Cup - greatly expanded the curling available for the now almost 100 members. The John Cairns Cup replaced the outdoor Points medals and curling stones were no longer offered for prizes, being replaced by other household goods or personal products such as crystal glass dishes, vacuum flasks, torches, pocket knives etc.. Other trophies were later added to provide a full season of curling. Matches against other clubs also developed, against Crossmyloof and Denny Leslie Park annually and a new David Robertson Trophy with three other clubs in knock-out. These together with existing Province competitions which had expanded to three trophies and RCCC competitions meant there was enough curling for everyone. By 1967 membership numbers were limited again to eighty members and this coincided with the start of probably the most successful period the club has experienced. Up to 1974, the club won the Province Trophies 10 times, David Robertson Cup 6 times, Cairns-Elder Trophy 6 times, D.D. Paterson Medal 4 times, Polmaise Trophy 7 times with a core of skips, especially J.D. Muirhead and A. McWattie.

In 1976, the first Pairs competition was held. The club survived the traumatic experience of Falkirk Ice Rink closing in 1977 without warning which resulted in three years with little curling until a new Ice Rink in Stirling opening in 1980. With its membership intact, further trophies were donated by members in subsequent years to establish all the club trophies that are still played for today.

## *The Historical Playing Record*

### Outdoor Curling

Up until well into the twentieth century all curling clubs had a recognised body of water that they claimed as their curling pond. It could have been a natural body of water, but more likely a man-made loch on an estate like Airthrey Loch that was used by other members of the public to skate and

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

curl on or it could have been a purpose built pond specifically for that curling club such as Wauk Mill was for Sauchie and Bannockburn. Some locations had artificial rinks, either as additions to their existing pond such as with Stirling, Borestone and Dunblane clubs or on their own, such as Bridge of Allan. These artificial rinks were not water borne ice, but ice created on a suitable surface by spraying water on it and allowing it to freeze. All clubs had small houses beside their ponds where they kept the members' curling stones and other equipment to lay out the rinks and play upon the ice.

When a club met another to play on their ice or on neutral ice, they had to transport their own curling stones and brooms as well as the players to these locations. For local journeys, this would be by horse and cart direct from one curling pond to the other. In 1899 a vote of thanks to all the members who carted all the club stones for the season was recorded in the club minutes. For longer journeys, the railway had to be used, with horse and cart taking everyone to and from the stations as required. All this had to be done to allow play in daylight as few ponds had lights even in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This restricted where it was possible to play. For the RCCC District Medal for example, when drawn against clubs which were some distance away, agreement to meet on a third party curling pond mid-way between them made these matches possible. So for example, the club played Buchlyvie on Cardross ice in 1881 and played Aberfoyle on Port of Monteith pond at Blairhoyle in 1887. Most matches were much more local. The number of rinks able to play was normally restricted to either 2 or 3 per side, depending on the size of the pond and the availability of players. Only a few local estate ponds, such as Cardross, Airthrey, Ardoch and Larbert House were large enough to have many more rinks for area wide or province matches. The largest matches of them all were the Grand Matches, bonspiels involving clubs from all over Scotland and some from England as well. These nearly always took place at Carsebreck, east of Braco in Perthshire, a pond purpose built by the RCCC for these events and first played on in 1854.

### First Recorded Match

As reported in the Stirling Journal, 5th March 1858.

Sauchie and Canglour Curling Club played on Saturday last, for beef and greens on the pond at Craigend between the members on the north and south sides of Auchenbowie Burn. The game was contested in great spirit but ultimately decided in favour of the southern men. The work finished and the 'substantial' done justice to, the following toasts were pledged with much enthusiasm in 'mountain dew', liberally supplied from Sauchie House. "The Patron of the club, J Lowis Esq of Plean", "The President, Mr Bulloch", "B Fisher Esq., Sauchie" and also "Mrs Lowis and Mrs Fisher" in one bumper more. The great unanimity prevailed throughout, each one apparently doing his utmost to enhance the hilarity of the gathering and much credit is certainly due the gainers for their voluntarily offering to defray one half of the expenses incurred.

### No Suitable Home.

The first matches of Sauchie and Canglour Curling Club took place at a pond in Barr Wood near Craigend, Auchenbowie, taking advantage of an existing stretch of open water. It was meant to be temporary and the club were always on the lookout for something nearer Bannockburn itself.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

At the beginning of 1865, the Stirling Journal reported that the club had been granted the use of Canglour Pond by Major Erskine. This was an old distillery pond and not ideally suited for curling either as mentioned by Mr J Muirhead when replying to a presentation made to him at the annual supper in 1927. The club did have a curling house here for their stones.

Mr J Dick of Craigenfelt was also promoting the use of Buckieburn curling pond to the club as it was close to his farm. On the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1868 at the annual dinner at Pirnhall Cottage, Bannockburn, the croupier William Drysdale, also of Craigenfelt handed over a magnificent medal presented by John Dick Esq.

The medal bore the following inscription:

“Presented to the Sauchie and Canglour Curling Club by John Dick Esq of Craigenfelt”.

On the reverse:

“Sauchie and Canglour Champion Medal”.

Stirling Journal, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1868

It was reported thus in 1870.

"Buckieburn Pond, the privilege of playing there having been granted by Mr Crawford, late of Glenhead and kindly continued by his successor Mr Leggate and further to increase the interest of the district in it, John Dick Esq. of Craigenfelt has presented Sauchie & Canglour Club with a beautiful medal to be played annually on this pond."

Stirling Journal, 18th February, 1870

J Dick of Craigenfelt Medal, the first match, Stirling Journal, 12th March 1869

During the week, this district was visited with a severe fall of snow to the depth of 7 to 8 inches and considerable drifting in some parts. Buckieburn curling pond for the rink medal presented to Sauchie and Canglour Club by John Dick Esq. of Craigenfelt. The game commenced at 9 o'clock when the draw paired no 1 and 2 rinks and no 3 with no 4. Time an hour and a half. On time being called, the score stood as follows:

No1 - 9 v No2 - 10 and No3 - 11 v No4 - 12. Nos 2 and 4 winners of the first tie.

Time being fixed at 1 hour, play commenced again amidst considerable excitement on account of the former play being so keenly contested. On beginning to play up the last end, both rinks stood equal, but this was quickly decided by No 2 rink scoring 2 shots

– the final score being: No2 - 7 v No4 - 5, +2 up.

Mr W Drysdale of Craigenfelt, the skip for No 2 rink is therefore entitled to the medal for the season. The ice was first rate and a more gamely contested medal has not been played for this season.



## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

Such was the enthusiasm for curling that the members were prepared to cart their stones through so much snow to play their game. Buckieburn was played on twice more in February and December 1870. Although more suitable for curling, it was much further away from most of the club's members so that it was never accepted as a permanent home.

The club never played any matches against other clubs on any of these ponds during this period, a state of affairs which could not continue. On the 11th July 1870, a special meeting was held to discuss a motion proposing that the affairs of the club be finally wound up. Opposing it was a motion to continue. After voting to continue by 8 votes to 3, an alternative proposal was put before the meeting that a deputation of three be sent to Sir Alexander Maitland about a new pond. This was unanimously agreed to and the winding up motion withdrawn.

At the annual supper on 7th February 1871, it was reported that "a deputation from the club should wait upon Major Wilson, Bannockburn, to consult him as to the propriety of having a new pond in the neighbourhood of Bannockburn, there being no pond there at present at which natives of that 'historical city' can meet to show their skills at the roaring game." Stirling Journal, 17th February, 1871

By the Annual General Meeting on 3rd October 1871, the minutes report that a committee was appointed to look at the ground proposed by Sir Alexander for a new pond at Wauk Mill and to report if said land be as suitable and the probable expense of construction.

The club was about to create a purpose built curling pond at Wauk Mill fit for all their curling needs.

### **Support from Patrons of the Game.**

The club's Patron and Patroness would include the Maitland and then Steel Maitland family until 1965 and although they had granted the pond at Wauk Mill, only Lady Steel Maitland supported the club's activities with the presentation of curling stones from 1896 onwards to be played for on that pond. Curling Clubs often received support from influential local men with an interest in the sport and they would present prizes to be played for by the members or seek to bring about annual matches between clubs. The Club did not enjoy this form of patronage as much as some other local clubs, notably Bridge of Allan and Borestone. However, a few members of the club made up for this by presenting medals and curling stones to be played for.

### **Points make prizes, Club Medals and Curling Stones.**

There is only one competition in curling that tests the individual and that is the game of Points. Developed by the Duddingston club at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and formalised by the RCCC, it was in its original form a test of eight points or disciplines of curling, striking, inwicking, drawing, guarding, chap and lie, wick and curl in, raising, and chipping the winner, with an extra one called outwicking to decide a game should there be a tie. One point was awarded for achieving the required result. As each curler had two stones, they would play them up one rink and then down the next for each discipline, a total of 4 attempts, to give a maximum possible score of thirty two points for all 8 disciplines. The whole curling pond could be utilised to allow several people to play at once keeping the competitors busy. Very few people ever scored more than even half that total such was the difficulty of the test. Most clubs had patrons who presented medals or some other prize for a Points competition and indeed, several competitions in a year were not unknown. Sauchie and

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

Canglour were well served in this respect. At the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1861 AGM at Pirnhall Cottage the Secretary William Allan intimated to the meeting:

“that he had received from Mr Lewis of Plean a handsome silver medal which was to be competed for at points and which was to become the property of the gainer. It is further expected that Laird Rae is to present the club with a medal.”

Stirling Journal, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1861

Curling Stones must have been donated as well as the Stirling Journal, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1864 reported:

“8<sup>th</sup> January 1864 at Barwood Pond for J Lewis Esq of Plean medal and pair of curling stones presented by Mr Campbell, late of Sauchie in points match. Medal won by John Waddell with 9 points, stones won by Thomas Bulloch with 7 points.”

These prizes were the property of the winners. Further presentations were made to continue the competitions. Thomas Bulloch the President and J M Lewis both presented medals that required them to be won twice and three times consecutively to leave the hands of the club. They were first played for on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1865.

On 28<sup>th</sup> December 1870 T Bulloch's Medal was won by J Goodwin with 9 points. There were 7 players. J N Lewis Medal was played the same day. The medal was gained by W Crawford with 10 points, there being 9 players. The members then competed for the curling stones given by Mr Campbell, late of Sauchie and these were gained by Mr W Muirhead, Pirnhall.

28<sup>th</sup> January 1871 Robert Rae's Medal was played for and gained by John Crawford.

These three medals then formed the Points competitions of the club. On the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1873, they were all played for, one after the other. The Lewis Medal won by William Dougal with 9 points. The late Laird Rae medal was won by Lt. Colonel A.G. Wilson with 9 points. The T. Bulloch medal was won by Captain E.L. Wilson with 8 points.

From here after the points medals were all played for on the same day. In 1876, Captain Wilson presented a pair of curling stones as a prize for a Points competition. At the AGM of 1878 it was agreed to have the medals as first, second and third prizes of one single Points competition. This brought about more instances of ties for one or more of the medals. Where the light and the conditions allowed it those tying played off but did not always use the outwicking shot as prescribed by the RCCC. Chap and lie or Drawing was also used. Where it was not possible to play on, a coin was tossed to decide.

On January 1886, 12 points won the competition, the highest score ever recorded in the original format of the competition. Both John Gillespie and Alex Macauley recorded the same score, but it is not recorded how John Gillespie won the first prize.

In December 1887 the scoring system was changed to give credit for useful shots that were not as good as the desired result but would provide benefit if played in a game. These secondary results were given one point and the main result two points. There were still eight disciplines with an extra one in the event of a tie. Now 64 points were possible.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

Robert Pearson won that first match using the new system with 25 points.

In season 1890/1891 it is recorded in the minute that John Muirhead won it with a score of 34 points, a very good score and never bettered outdoor. The state of the ice can play an important part in the scoring as in 1900 with the water gone below the ice and it much biased, 13 points won the competition.

Over the season of 1894/1894, the three medals were inscribed as first, second and third prize and the winner's names were then engraved on them in date order. The first name recorded was from the match on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1886 won by Robert Pearson as seen on the surviving second prize medal.



Figure 2 Points Second Prize Medal



Figure 3 Points Second Prize Medal Obverse

At the AGM of October 1896, Miss Maitland became patroness of the club and offered a pair of curling stones to be played for on an annual basis at Wauk Mill.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1897, the curling stones were first played for as first prize, the medals now being relegated to positions 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the competition. R Taylor won the stones with a score of 24 points. Because the winner kept the curling stones and they were a valuable prize, costing Miss Maitland £4: 6s 6d for that first pair which were bought in Glasgow and delivered to Bannockburn by rail, there were many discussions as to how this prize could be fairly distributed among the membership. It was agreed that four matches must pass before the gainer could win again. Thus in 1901 R Taylor took the first medal and the curling stones went to the second placed winner as this was only the third time the match had been played. He won it with 23 points, the ice being damp in the sun, but becoming more wet after the sun went down finishing covered with 1½ inches of water.



Figure 4 Patroness Prize Handles from curling stones, 1912. Won by Dr J Morrison with 25 points.

In 1929, the ice was very soft and the rinks had to be shortened by 6 yards to be playable. In 1933, Miss Maitland, now Lady Steel-Maitland wrote to the club saying that she would only present curling stones every other year, starting from season 1934/1935. As a consequence of this, the

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

club agreed to procure curling stones and curling handles in the alternative years to Lady Steel-Maitland. An entrance fee to play in these games of 2/-for each member playing was charged.

In 1940, the third placed winner received the curling stones, they being the lowest ranked to do so. To finish this match, the 9<sup>th</sup> point had to be played with candles burning on the tee. This was also the last time Lady Steel-Maitland provided curling stones, citing high war taxes. Mrs Steel-Maitland paid Farmers Supply Association of Scotland Ltd for one pair of Red Ailsa Curling Stones, complete with handles, bolts and washers, engraved for presentation to Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club for the sum of £7: 10s 3d.

So in 1941, the last Points game played on Wauk Mill took place. From now on, the Points competition would be indoors. The medals would no longer be awarded and instead, entry money was charged to pay for ice rinks and prize money or purchasing prizes.

### **J Dick Medal Annual Matches with Denny Greens.**

Played for on three previous occasions as a rinks match within the club at Buckieburn Pond, Mr Dick had then given the medal to be played for annually between Sauchie and Canglour and Denny Greens. On the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1873 the medal was played for at Denny Greens' Pond at Longhill Loch. From that match on it was to be played annually between the two clubs on each other's ponds respectively. In December 1874, Denny Greens became the first club to play at Wauk Mill against the new Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club.

It took till the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1887 for the club to actually win the medal for the first time, having lost the previous 10 matches. The last game played against the Denny Greens was in 1902. By then the club had won it 6 times.

In 1930, the medal was again played for with Carron Valley the opponents. However, only another 4 games were played before the medal disappeared for good after 1942.

### **Polmaise Trophy**

Borestone became the second club to visit Wauk Mill in December 1878 and this developed into a friendly relationship with regular games. It was cemented by the introduction of the Polmaise Trophy in 1895 by Colonel Murray, then Patron of Borestone. This was to be a competition of all the local Stirling clubs, Borestone, Stirling, Stirling Castle and Sauchie and Bannockburn and it favoured the use of the pond at Bearside, on Colonel Murray's estate at Polmaise.

There was a first round where the four teams were drawn against an opponent, with the winners playing in the final for the trophy itself. The club contested the first final in 1897 against Stirling but were beaten by 45 v 54, down by -9 shots, three rinks a side at Bearside. Stirling went on to win the first three tournaments.

On 13<sup>th</sup> February 1901, the club again played Stirling in the final tie for the Polmaise Trophy on Col. Murray's private pond. The ice was very keen but much biased on one of the rinks. They played for 3 hours with 3 rinks a side and eventually won 63 v 45, up by +18 shots.

A few games were quite one sided, with the club losing heavily. In the Club minutes it is recorded '26<sup>th</sup> December 1925, final of Polmaise Trophy played at Bearside. Three rinks took on Borestone and lost by -40 shots. Two rinks played on the artificial pond, the other rink on the pond ice. The ice

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

was good on the artificial pond, the other ice on which the third rink played was very twisted. Game lasted for three hours.' The score was 39 v 79.

In 1929, the trophy was played for twice within two weeks, to finish the 1927/28 season, then to complete that year's trophy. The club lost both, the first -21 shots down, but the second by -45 shots down. The score this time was 28 v 73.

It would be a long wait till the next time the club won it, in 1940, then winning it again in alternate seasons of 1945 and lastly in 1947 before it moved to Falkirk Ice Rink. For these latter matches, Stirling Castle had ceased to exist and Stirling had trouble raising three rinks and did not always play.

### District Medal Matches

The RCCC drew matches for a silver medal known as the District or Caledonian Medal and these matches were a very real test of which club was better than another over any Province or Grand Match. The result was also recorded on the medal and with the RCCC so that the world knew the result. This might explain why these matches were recorded faithfully in the minutes of the club more than any other.

Having been admitted to the RCCC in the summer of 1860, the first District Medal took place at Larbert House Pond on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, 1861 against Muiravonside, who had also been admitted to the RCCC in 1860, two rinks a side. They won the medal by +8 shots up, the ice being keen but biased. The return match in 1870 at Thackrigg, near Craigend in Polmont went even worse with a loss of -30 shots. 4 other District Medals had also been lost by that time. Sauchie and Canglour as a club never won a district medal. The first win came in the next District Medal match against Vellore at Larbert House Pond on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1874, by the renamed Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club. Two rinks a side played and the club won by +6 shots up. It would be an even longer wait before it was repeated, in December 1887 first against Balfron, then Aberfoyle. The latter was a delayed match, awarded the year before but not able to be played. All was not well in the Aberfoyle match however.

In the minutes of the club a committee meeting took place on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1888, Commercial Hotel, Bannockburn.

'Secretary read a letter he had received from secretary of Aberfoyle club intimating that on behalf of his club he had lodged a protest with the RCCC against the award of the District Medal to our club, on the ground that a disputed point had been decided by the umpire in a way not in accordance with the rules of the Royal Club. He also read a letter from the secretary of the Royal Club (A. Davidson Smith) in answer to one he had written to that gentleman in regard to this dispute with Aberfoyle, in which Mr Smith said that any objection should have been stated before the award was given; and that in the circumstances it would be difficult to overturn the umpire's decision.'

It was later revealed in a letter from the secretary of Aberfoyle that the ground of their protest was that the umpire had decided that players could sweep behind the tee as they liked.

The protest was later withdrawn. Where a dispute could not be settled, the RCCC held a Court of Reference to make a judgement on any incident involving member clubs. This would be held locally to the disputing clubs.

## Province Matches

Provinces were collections of neighbouring clubs in a district, constituting what was called a Province and playing bonspiels to determine the best club within that Province. They had to use a body of water big enough to accommodate a large number of rinks. These ponds usually belonged to estates and access had to be granted to the Province for their use. In the area around Stirling, several attempts were made to form Provinces and Sauchie and Canglour were involved in a few of them. The Monteith Province was the first one the club played in. The Stirling Journal reported on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1863 of a meeting at the Golden Lion Hotel in Stirling which constituted the Province, stating that the 16 clubs would play for a medal on Lake of Monteith or Cardross Pond first ice. Each club would send two rinks to play. The clubs were drawn against each other and the scores of the two rinks formed the gross score of each club respectively. A special train was organised from Stirling to transport the eastern clubs to the venue. So on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1864, the Province match took place on Lake of Monteith, unfortunately Tullibody failed to show, so Thornhill had to sit out the first round.

Sauchie and Canglour beat Aberfoyle 11 shots to 8, +3 up in the first round then lost to Drymen in the second round, 7 shots to 11, down -4 shots. Borestone won the final in the fourth round. With Province matches the draw of opponents is an important factor in deciding eventual winners. There is limited time and the clubs cannot play all the other members on one single day. The Monteith Province used a form of knockout, where the highest scoring club proceeded to the next round.

The next time the Monteith Province played at Cardross Pond which Major Erskine had kindly granted for the purpose on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1865. This time the club lost to Cardross and Kepp the eventual winners in the first round by 18 shots to 16, -2 shots down.

Monteith Province was never played again.

The day after the club took part in a match which aspired to be a Province versus Province match at Airthrey Loch. It was reported in the newspapers as a Grand Match, North v South, 25 rinks a side with clubs drawn from north of the Forth against those south of the Forth. Men of the North were under the leadership of Lord Abercromby and the South under Col. Murray of Polmaise. It was a 12 o'clock start and three hours were played. A ballot was taken so rink was drawn against rink.

Sauchie & Canglour	Score	Club	Score
T Bulloch	21	Alloa	10
W Crawford	17	Blairdrummond	11
A Thomson	9	Alva	18
	47		39

+8 shots up. RCCC Annual 1866/67

	North		South		
Rinks	Club	Shots	Rinks	Club	Shots
3	Alloa	42	3	Sauchie & Canglour	47
3	Alloa Prince of Wales	56	4	Larbert	62
3	Alva	47	4	Stirling	60
3	Blairdrummond	32	4	Borestone	80
4	Bridge of Allan	67	3	Camelon	52
4	Dunblane	56	2	Dunmore & Bruce Castle	27



## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

3	Sheriffmoor	50	2	Gargunnock	37
2	Tullibody	30	3	Denny	53
		380			420

The Bridge of Allan Reporter noted

'There were a considerable number of spectators present during the day, but the intense cold had no doubt the effect of keeping many back. Lady Abercromby, however and a few other ladies graced the ice by their presence. After the game, the curlers and their friends were regaled by Lord Abercromby with an ample supply of bread and cheese, hot ale and beer which was very acceptable on such a cold day.

On the numbers being announced, the players from the South sent up a hearty cheer in which many of their Northern brethren joined. Three cheers were given for Lord Abercromby, three for Lady Abercromby and three for the committee.'

Stirlingshire Province was formed on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1870 at a meeting of clubs at the Star Hotel, Stirling. James McPherson attended for the club. However at a follow up meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November the club was not among the sixteen elected to make up the Province and so did not play in the first Province match on Larbert Pond on the 28<sup>th</sup> December.

It was reported in the Stirling Journal in 1871 that the club played for Stirlingshire Province against Central Scotland Province at Carsebreck on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February however.

Sauchie & Canglour	Score	Club	Score
J Goodwin	14	Bridge of Allan	18
W Crawford	5	Doune	30
	19		48

Score down by -29 shots.

Central Province won over all.

This was the only recorded game that Sauchie and Canglour played for Stirlingshire Province. Renamed Sauchie and Bannockburn, the club applied for entry to the Stirlingshire Province in November 1880. On the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1881 the club was admitted to the Stirlingshire Province along with Falkirk Callander, Redding Colliery and Castlecary to bring the number of member clubs to twenty. Stirlingshire Province used the Larbert House Pond for curling and being close to the railway station in Larbert meant it was easily accessible for most clubs. The first Province match attended by the club was 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1882 played at Larbert House Pond.

Sauchie & Bannockburn	Score	Club	Score
Col. Wilson	19	Castlecary Castle	29
J. Laing	18	Grangemouth	28
J Muirhead	17	Stenhouse & Carron	16
	54		73

Score down by -19 shots

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

However, a great turnaround was achieved the next time it was played on the 21st January 1886 on Larbert Pond resulted in Sauchie & Bannockburn declared winners of the medal, with a considerably higher average majority than any other club.

Sauchie and Bannockburn	Score	Club	Score
Col. A Wilson	33	Denny Greens	12
J Laing	18	Carron	17
J Muirhead	29	Alva	10
	80		39

Score up by 41 shots. Stirling Journal, 22nd January 1886

This was the first time a Province match had been won by the club. It would take four more attempts before they won it again in December 1892, after Tillicoultry was disqualified for only having two teams rather than the stipulated three, their two rinks scoring one shot better than Sauchie's three rinks. Colonel Wilson became President of Stirlingshire Province after the victory and remained so to see the next one, retiring in 1900.

The next match, in 1895, the club received the Third place medal. Then in 1897, history repeated itself, this time Alloa being disqualified for having two teams with a score of 29 shots up, thus the club was awarded the winners medal for a score of 22 shots up.

In 1899, the club tied with Slamannan for second place, which they won on the toss of a coin because there was insufficient light to play.

In 1902, in response to Colonel Murray of Polmaise presenting a Challenge Cup for annual competition, the Province divided itself in half, using the Bridge of Allan to Polmont Railway as the dividing line between East and West. The club was in the west and would thereafter be drawn against eastern clubs.

The 1907 match finished in a tie for third place with Grangemouth and a match was to be scheduled to decide the medal. It was eventually played at the next Province match at Larbert Pond in 1912 with Grangemouth winning by 3 shots to 2, or one shot up. This would be the last time the club would be involved in the medals while it was played outdoors. The club took part in another six matches at Larbert Pond, before it switched to Falkirk Ice Rink.

### Grand Matches

The [Grand Match](#) is the national competition of curling and involves rinks from the North against the South. The club first took part in 1861 for the South at Carsebreck, the year after joining the RCCC and participated in most up to and including Carsebreck's last match in 1935 with over two and a half thousand players taking part. The club played 17 times here.





Figure 5 Stirling Observer, 13th February 1912 Sauchie & Bannockburn Curling Club rinks at Grand Match, Carsebreck.

This involved a train journey to the Carsebreck halt where a platform was built to allow curlers to disembark, collect their stones and walk over to the pond to play. The RCCC arranged special trains to pick up the players from around the country. The match usually started as close to midday as possible, but late trains often caused delays. The club started as a member of the South, playing two, three and occasionally four rinks. In 1903 the club was moved to the North side to balance up the numbers. In the final game of 1935, once more playing for the South, 4 rinks took part and won by 41 shots, their best ever result achieved by one rink winning 36 v 6. This still wasn't good enough to win any medals.

### Wauk Mill Curling Pond

It is not recorded in the minutes exactly when Wauk Mill Curling Pond was created nor any details of the construction or cost. What we do have is a record of the AGM in 1873 of a debt and the clearance of it by the members, but especially from Colonel Wilson, J. Dick Esq. and Captain Wilson. The club arranged a supper for them in recognition of their kindness.

The pond was built beside the Bannock Burn, on the south bank, down a steep embankment which sheltered the pond on the south side and made it suited for a curling pond. As John Muirhead stated in 1928 'It turned out to be an ideal place for a pond, but when the water was first turned on it all disappeared into the Bannock. The members were then faced with the expense of lining the side and part of the end next to the burn with wood, and a considerable quantity of clay was carted from the Carse to puddle it. As the supply of water gave out, we again had to be at the expense of putting in a pipe from the Bannock, at the back of the old spinning mill, to the pond, which has proved ample'. These alterations and repairs to the pond meant that by the AGM of 1874 the club was in debt once more, recorded as £15: 4s 3d. £10 was borrowed to cover payments to be made.

Denny Greens were the first club to play on the new pond in December 1874 competing in an annual match for the J. Dick medal. Borestone became the second club to visit Wauk Mill in December 1878 and this developed into a friendly relationship with regular games mostly played at their pond at Bearside. It was the nearest to Bannockburn. Wauk Mill was big enough for only 3 rinks of ice, so the maximum number of players on the ice at any rinks game could only be 24 men.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

At the committee meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> October 1875, Wm. Muirhead, the chairman reported that he had seen both Sir Alexander Gibson Maitland and his Factor, Mr Fernie, in regard to the question of the club pond rent and had secured the assurance that no rent would be asked from the club for the pond. A very important concession to the finances of the club.

The chairman further reported that Sir Alexander had authorised the club to remove the old office from the Catcraig Quarry for the purpose of rebuilding it at the pond for the use of the club, which the meeting gratefully accepted and as the chairman proposed to do the carting of the stones from the quarry to the pond gratuitously, agreed to recommend to the club to have it removed and re-erected at the pond. The meeting also resolved to recommend to the club the propriety of taking a fresh supply of water by laying a 4 inch pipe from the burn to the pond which could be done at an outlay of from £15 to £20 pounds.

At the AGM following, the treasurer was due £1: 5s 8d, but Colonel Wilson and Captain Wilson each donated £5 to the funds. As recorded in the minutes 'The obligation on which the committee borrowed £10 from Mr Walls was produced to the meeting and ordered to be thrown into the fire; which was done and the document burned'.

The recommendations of the committee in regard to bringing in a fresh supply of water to the pond and of removing the house from the adjacent quarry to the pond were adopted. A motion "that to meet the expense of this work the sum of £25 should be borrowed by the committee of the ensuing year, the consent of absent members being obtained" unanimously agreed. Entry money was raised to £1 to help pay back the loan. Subscriptions however remained at 2/6d. Secretary later reported that he had disposed of the materials of the old house at Canglour Pond for the sum of 5/-

By March 1876, the bill for all the work was as follows:

A Williamson and others for cutting drain, laying pipes and filling in – total	£12: 5s 1d
J.Binnie for pipes	£6: 11s 3d
Dougall & Ronald – erecting house etc	£8: 16s 11d
J. Currie, floor for house	£5: 14s 9d
D. McGregor, slating house	£1: 9s 0d
Sir A.C.R.G. Maitland for fencing (supplied in 1872)	£2: 7s 6d
Balance due to Treasurer	£2: 18s 11d
	£40: 3s 5d
Less sum paid A Williamson to account	£4: 0s 0d
	£36: 3s 5d

The club secretary borrowed £36 at 4% interest to cover the bills. It would take until September 1891, some 15 years later to pay it off.

Every year after harvest time, the pond had to be prepared for the next season's curling. This involved clearing the grass growing in the bottom of the pond, removing sand, keeping the pond holding water, clearing weeds and briar from the footpath, plus any maintenance to the water supply, and house. In 1892 a fence was erected and a convenience added to the house.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

In 1881 there were improvements to the intake of water for the pond by creating a dam on the burn to ensure a flow of water into the pond. The pond committee was increased from three to five with a convener.

In 1895, the pond committee were instructed to remove snow from the ice as soon as possible to enable games to be played with little delay.

In August 1897, the pond required several repairs and improvements. A new sluice was fitted along with repairs to the pipes and a brick built cesspool was added for the purpose of catching any sand before it entered the pond.

In 1897, a man was used to watch the ice over Sundays to stop it being ruined by trespassers. It was remarked as successful in 1899 and formally given to the Pond Committee to remit. By 1901 there was a payment for each day the service was required of not more than 1/6d. This continued till 1913.

In 1899, the club agreed to expand the house the cost not to exceed £15. It was finished for a final cost of £8: 0s 6d and the balance cleared in 1901 with club funds at a low of 15/1d.

Between 1913 and 1925 there was no curling at all on Wauk Mill.

Consideration was given to lining the pond with bitumen from advice received from the factor of Sauchie Estate in 1924. The cost was put at £25 to £30. It was decided to do nothing after reviewing the situation.

By 1926, the sluice was again replaced and the weir over the burn reinforced by a tree donated by Sauchie and Barnton Estate. The fireplace in the curling house was also done and replaced by members with a used grate and donated bricks and lime.

There was a long spell of curling in 1929, which lasted over 2 months although only 4 games were officially recorded at Wauk Mill. An ice master appeared at this time called Robert McKenzie who did most of the maintenance of the pond and kept the ice clear of snow and ready to play. He was given an honorarium at the October AGM of 30/-. In subsequent years his efforts were similarly recognised being paid £3 for his work in 1938. However, in January 1940, the pond had not been flooded as expected and after examination the weir was found to be leaking. The Pond Committee proceeded to fix it only to discover the sluice was also leaking and the pond not holding water. After an unsatisfactory discussion with Mr McKenzie he resigned his position. A new pond keeper was agreed, with ice master title being less used, then dropped. Ice duties remained and 2/- per day when ice was available was paid for their efforts, remuneration being £3 rising to £6 in 1949. The last recorded use of Wauk Mill pond was 25<sup>th</sup> December 1950, when curling was available for a few days but only 6 members turned up. There was no pond keeper that year and at a committee meeting it was reported that the ice had been bearing for a few days and it had been spoiled by children playing on it and breaking it up. The cleaning of the pond was maintained up until 1953 at a cost of £6. At the October 1954 AGM however, the Pond Committee was disbanded and the pond left uncut. The fencing was maintained to retain the right to use it but it was never played on again.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

Over its life from 1874 to 1950, there are 78 recorded matches known about. Of those, 48 were club games and only 28 for competitions, the others simply scratch games among club members which because they had no significance may be understated.

Of the 30 inter-club games, only 13 were won. The J. Dick Medal match with Denny Greens was the most frequent, eight recorded, being played alternatively on Denny Greens pond. Almost all the others were friendly matches.

1<sup>st</sup> May 1956, an advert in Stirling newspapers advised members to remove their stones from the curling house by 1<sup>st</sup> June 1956. At a committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1962, it was reported that the remaining 10 pairs of curling stones from club house sold for £21: 10s 0d. In the summer of 1963, the curling pond house roof was removed and part of the walls demolished by Mr Hendry then the vice president with the help of others. Finally the need for a curling pond was removed from the constitution in 1970.

There was no going back. Only those with an interest in playing outdoors kept their stones and crampits at their own homes. They would still be able to play in future outdoor matches such as the Grand Matches.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SAUCHIE AND BANNOCKBURN

CURLING CLUB

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to members of the club who may have Curling Stones in the Pond Club House to have them removed by 1<sup>st</sup> June 1956 as after that date the Club Committee will dispose of the stones as they see fit. Keys of the Pond house can be had from Messrs Muirhead, Milton Mill Farm.

By order of the Committee

W D MUIRHEAD

Hon. Secretary

### A Step Too Far

An artificial rink was first mentioned in 1928 with a small committee formed to investigate. The club had experience of playing on these as several clubs have had them for some time, notably Borestone and often these rinks were the only ones playable, the ponds not having bearing ice. In 1929 it was reported that a suitable site was available locally but the most important problem would be the introduction of gravitation for water pressure for spraying. Ice is created by spraying water over the frozen surface of the rink till thick enough to play on. Another more accessible site was quoted as costing £200 and so interest was not high, despite voting to continue to raise funds for a new artificial rink. What stopped any further development was the threat that the club might lose its rent free agreement for the curling pond as any new ground would be leased for a nominal 5/- a year on application to the estate for

some ground.

The money collected would eventually be used to buy shares in Falkirk Ice Rink.

In December 1937, at a committee meeting the Secretary was asked to report on the cost of providing electric lighting for the pond. In February 1938 the Secretary reported that the whole work, including the lamps (6) to cost between £45 and £50, with £2 per annum as fixed rate whether used or not. It was unanimously agreed to drop the matter. The secretary was instructed to procure a paraffin lamp for the curling house.

There were still attempts in 1940 to provide motor car access to the club's pond so that the members who had cars could park next to it, but the attempt to use the field adjoining which belonged to Mr Thomson, Back o' Hill at the time came to nought.

### **Transition from Outdoor to Indoor Curling**

For the first time ever recorded the club played indoors at the two Grand Matches arranged by the RCCC in 1908 and again in 1909 at Crossmyloof Ice Rink. There was no other curling those two seasons. Despite this there must have been some dissatisfaction with the experience as at the club AGM following on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1909, agreed to send 3 rinks to Grand Match if at Carsebreck, but none if at Crossmyloof. The club also declined an invite from Stirlingshire Province to play in a Challenge Cup at Crossmyloof in 1910. This reluctance to use indoor ice still persisted through the longest spell without outdoor curling from 1913 to 1925. Season 1928/1929 however had outdoor ice from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the best spell for many a year but was never repeated again. The carting of the stones to away matches was now done by a local company called D. Miller & Sons and though the mode of transport is not recorded it was most likely a small motorised lorry. There was no water borne ice in seasons 1931/1932, 1933/1934, 1934/1935, 1936/1937 and 1938/1939 and where it did occur it was usually short and poor quality. However, other sections of the curling fraternity were embracing indoor ice and this eventually affected the club as well.

The club did not take part in any of the first Stirlingshire Province Bonspiels at Edinburgh Ice Rink or the Inter-Province Matches in 1927. The President of Stirlingshire Province, Mr James H Aitken, Brewer, Falkirk gifted a handsome silver cup to the association for annual competition on an ice rink, with the first contest to taking place at Edinburgh Ice Rink on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 1928. The club sent two rinks to take part in it and did so annually after that. Then in February 1930, the club first played in the Sir Waldie Griffith Cup at Crossmyloof Ice Rink as part of the inter-province competition. From this point on, no season was ever wholly outdoors again. The mode of transportation also changed in this period, going from railways to buses. The club became a regular hirer of buses to take all the players and even spectators to club games at the ice rinks.

At the AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1931, the Secretary booked ice at Crossmyloof for club 'bounce' games for the first time and repeated it the next year. There followed a gap until season 1936/1937 when 4 rinks were purchased. These were all friendly games with skips allocated to each game and teams arranged by them. The next season this had increased to 5 rinks. In April 1938, the club played the Points competition for first time at Crossmyloof Ice Rink. Only 3 rinks were booked at Crossmyloof when Falkirk Ice Rink opened with a further 7 rinks booked at Falkirk. By now, the amount of curling taking place far exceeded even the best outdoor years. The membership restriction of 50 members was also lifted, so the club had an expanding membership to provide for as well and indoor ice was the only way of catering for this demand.

At the AGM of 4<sup>th</sup> October 1938, invested £30 in shares in Falkirk Ice Rink and so had two rinks playing at the opening invitation tournament on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1938.

With the opening of Falkirk Ice Rink all the local clubs took up indoor ice as did the Province and RCCC. Only Borestone and the Polmaise Trophy continued to emphasise outdoor ice for a few more years. The club now developed its own competitions at Falkirk Ice Rink.

With the pond no longer in use, the curling house gone, members' stones removed and the constitution changed to remove the need for a pond in 1970, the transition was now complete; the club was an indoor curling club only.

### Indoor Curling

Indoor Curling is very different to the outdoor version in many ways despite being the same game. Outdoor curling uses available ice and light to play combined with favourable weather and when either one of these criteria ceases to be adequate, curling stops. Indoor curling can happen at any time the ice rink is open, but for clubs it is normally an evening sport played under lights. The indoor rinks are always ready to play, the stones belong to the ice rink and lie ready to be used, the rinks are marked in the ice and only the surface of the ice is cleaned and prepared in between games. Outdoors, everything has to be set up from scratch if it is new ice with rinks marked out, crampits must be set in the ice, the surface cleared and stones brought to the ice. The main difference is the sharing of the ice rink with many other clubs necessitates the booking of ice to fulfil a club's needs to play competitions both within the club and against others. This gives a season of planned and managed curling over a much longer season. Like some other clubs, Sauchie and Bannockburn club curling expanded to take advantage of this greater opportunity. This led to a period at the end of the 1940s when there was not enough ice available for all the demand at Falkirk. The club went back to Crossmyloof to arrange several matches.

Indoor curling is not without incident however and events can be even more unexpected than outdoor. Falkirk Ice Rink experienced power cuts which made playing impossible for example. On a few evenings, the ice was dour and required a great deal of effort to play, a mist visible above the ice as happened in warm weather in November 1947. However, an ice rink can recover the situation by offering alternative ice later on in the season. Ice rinks are usually at a distance from club members and bad weather has stopped people travelling to matches. Snow and heavy fog being the chief culprits, causing cancelled or missed matches. However, these circumstances can lead to financial losses at the club because the ice rink still expects payment for booked ice whether a club plays on it or not.

Buses were frequently hired to take all the players to matches as these would be cheaper than individual fares and would ensure everyone attended the match as they would be delivered to the door of the ice rink. They usually started in Stirling and went via Bannockburn and Whins of Milton to Denny and from there to either Falkirk or Crossmyloof Ice Rinks. The early matches for the Mitchell Wilson Trophy and David Miller Cup used buses for some matches. The war years made it difficult to arrange. When the D.D. Paterson (1866) Medal match with Denny Leslie Park was held at Crossmyloof from 1948 to 1950, both clubs shared a bus on the night such was the close relationship. For the first time it was recorded that four cars took the players to Perth Ice Rink to play the friendly match against Abdie Curling Club in 1958 and hired buses for matches stopped after 1960, a reflection of growing car ownership.

### Indoor Province Competitions

As early as 1927 the Province started playing indoors for competitions. Responding to club requests, the Province booked ice at Edinburgh as an alternative should there be no outdoor ice. A circular was sent out but the club responded that it would not be represented and so did not play on the 25<sup>th</sup>



## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

February 1927. Then on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1928 saw the introduction of the Aitken Trophy kindly donated by the then President of the Province, Mr James H Aitken, Brewer, Falkirk to be played for annually on indoor ice. The first matches were at Edinburgh, Haymarket Ice Rink up to 1938 and the club took part in all of them. The club did not participate in the 1939 match due to the war situation. They resumed in 1940 at Falkirk Ice Rink. The Province stopped the matches between seasons 1942/43 and 1944/45. It took the club until 1954 to win the trophy for the first time indoors.

The Stirlingshire Province match for the Colonel Murray Cup went indoors in January 1941 also at Falkirk Ice Rink. Here too it would take till 1954 to win this trophy indoors for the first time.

The Province took over the Dunn Trophy from Falkirk Ice Rink in 1950 and it was won by the club for the first time in 1968.

From 1962 through till 1966 the club had a long spell of being runners up for all the trophies, three times for both the Aitken and Murray trophies and once for the Dunn in 1964. In that match, the Secretary noted in the minute that a protest should have been made against the eventual winners, Falkirk Ice Rink club as their rinks contained two regular members from Sauchie and Bannockburn, contrary to Rule 31 in the 1963/64 RCCC Curling Annual.

The greatest spell of winning occurred from 1967 to 1974, details of which appear in a later chapter below.

### Indoor Points Matches Make More Prizes

On the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1938, the club played a Points competition indoors for the first time at Crossmyloof Ice Rink. 4 rinks were booked to enable everyone to complete the eight disciplines in time and 4 markers were asked to attend from the ice rink. The club had bought a pair of curling stones and handles for prizes and also been presented with curling stones from the late A.L. Wilson, by his sister, Miss Wilson who became a patroness of the club. Entry money of 2/- was paid by all who played along with their travel expenses.

It was to take till 1944 before another Points game was arranged to play for the curling stones kindly donated by John Brisbane as first prize. As before 2/- entry fee would go towards prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> highest scores. Members who had already won Presentation stones would not be eligible to win these curling stones. So it was to prove as the winner R.I. Muirhead had already won curling stones and so next highest, Robert Howie, was presented with the stones by then President, David Miller at the ice rink, along with the other prize winners. 21 members took part.

At the October 1946 AGM, it was decided to spend money donated by past and present Presidents Alex Kemp and John Cairns to procure a trophy for the Points competition as the first prize. The first Points match was held at Falkirk Ice Rink in the following season. Post cards were sent to all members to respond if they wished to enter. 4/6d was entry fee and ice charge. It was played on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1947, at the end of the season with four rinks again booked. The winner received the new John Cairns Cup and a pair of curling handles donated by Mr W. Watson. 2<sup>nd</sup> received £1, 3<sup>rd</sup> 15/- and 4<sup>th</sup> 10/-. Four markers were again supplied by Denny Leslie Park club and these men were given tickets to the forthcoming smoking concert for doing so. 29 members took part and the order of the players was drawn from a hat.

From this season onwards, the Points competition would be played indoors for the John Cairns Cup.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

The following season a specially chartered bus took all the competitors to the ice rink. 40 members had responded but only 36 turned up. Prizes were a book of tickers for the ice rink donated by Mr J Cairns along with the cup for first prize, 2<sup>nd</sup> was a cigarette case and 10/-, 3<sup>rd</sup> a book of ice rink tickets, 4<sup>th</sup> a cigarette case and 5/-, 5<sup>th</sup> a snuff box and 7/6d, 6<sup>th</sup> snuff box and 5/-, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 5/- each. Mr J.W. McQue had donated the cigarette cases and snuff boxes.

Many donors presented prizes for these competitions and they varied greatly over the years. Money was also given so that prizes could be purchased specially. In 1950, the competition was again played at Crossmyloof, with a special bus conveying the players. It cost 10/- to enter, pay the ice fees and a share of the transport. The President actually presented the prizes to the winners in the bus journey back home.

35 members played on 6 rinks at Falkirk the following season. The President noted that it was much quicker with 6 rinks but very strenuous playing three different points in one round. It also made the competition much more expensive and more difficult to book. It reverted to four rinks the next time.

In 1953 a gold badge was given to the winner along with the cup. A prize was also given to the lowest scoring player, in this instance George Rigby received a pocket wallet for his 10 points scored. It was not done again. Three people tied for 6<sup>th</sup> place and replayed the outwicking point but as no one scored, they simply tossed for it. This time all the prizes were handed over at a social evening and presentation of prizes.

At the next AGM in 1955 a general discussion took place regarding Points prizes, which the committee had been considering for some time. The President, W. Muirhead, Foot o' Green stated that the committee felt regular members of the club should be awarded the John Cairns Cup along with the majority of the prizes and special prizes be given to occasional members. The Secretary, W.D. Muirhead, proposed 6 prizes for regular members and 2 for occasional members and was seconded. However, an amendment was proposed to leave it as formerly. The amendment was defeated on a vote.

So from 1956 to 1966 there were separate prizes for regular and occasional members.

In 1958, a prize was added for the highest scoring lady member. Mrs A Morrison became the first lady prize winner at Points for the club, with a score of 22 points for which she received a Fruit Set.

There was no Points competition in 1959 as the ice rink closed early due to unforeseen circumstances. The club had won the Friday League at Falkirk and been presented a trophy for winning it last season. At a committee meeting in July 1959 it was agreed that this cup be used as a special prize in the Ladies Points game to the highest scorer, to be retained for one year.

The following season Falkirk Ice Rink amended their charge for Points games to £2 per rink and after discussion it was thought that this made the Points too expensive. However, Robert Young stated that as the late John Cairns had presented a cup for this match it ought to be played for and he agreed to pay the ice himself. He was thanked for his generosity and the entry fee of 2/6 would be put towards prizes. The first winner of the Ladies trophy was Mrs R. Armstrong with 14 points.



## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

In 1962, a young curler's prize was added for those with under three years playing experience and who had yet to win a prize and won by John McRorie with 22 points for which he received a pen torch. It was repeated the next season then stopped.

Only two dates were set aside by Falkirk Ice Rink for Points competitions in season 1964/65 and both days were Sundays. Despite this and the Secretary having nothing to do with Sunday curling, the club went ahead and played.

The next season 4 sheets of ice were procured for £11: 4s 0d on a Thursday evening, which meant an entry fee of 10/- inclusive. A loss of £3: 3s 6d was recorded for the event. This would become a feature of Points competitions. The club had to subsidise them as not enough players would come forward to cover the ice costs despite donations from committee members for prizes. Adding in the cost of post cards and postage meant that a loss of over £8 was borne the following year. That season 1965/66 J. Scott of Hillhead won the John Cairns Trophy with a score of 39 points, the highest score ever recorded for Points up to that date.

Once more Falkirk Ice Rink gave two dates for Points competitions that were both Sundays in season 1967/68. After another vote it was agreed to proceed with the Points on a Sunday.

For season 1969/70, due to the feeling that the younger members were not interested in the Points competition, Mr John Brisbane provided a prize for male members who were only leads or seconds in the Corrieri competition. This was continued by Mr J.D. Muirhead in the following seasons up to the closure of Falkirk Ice Rink in 1977. Entry fee for the competition was £1.30 by this time. From season 1973/74 it was agreed that prizes be given to winners only owing to the difficulty in obtaining worthwhile prizes for the money available. For the Points competition, several committee members made donations of prizes in addition to the club's prize and once a money donation of £10 was given to purchase prizes and cover expenses. It was not recorded in the minutes what the donated prizes were, only who the donor was and for which position, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.

In the final season at Falkirk, Alex Bullions scored 41 points to win the trophy and set a club record.

The first lady ever to win the Points competition outright was Mrs Irene Kerr, who scored a very commendable 39 points in 1985, the next highest being W.S. Brisbane, with 37 points. She was awarded the John Cairns Cup as well as the Ladies cup. At the following AGM it was agreed that Mrs Kerr should be awarded the Cup, but that the Ladies Cup should go the second highest Lady, as no person should win more than one trophy.

The next season, A.I. Morrison set a Points record by winning the cup with a score of 47 points, 16 points above the second place.

By 1990, the loss for holding the Points competition had risen to £56 but the club persisted with it.

### **The Rise of Club Curling, New Club Trophies.**

As each new trophy was introduced into the club, so the number of games played at the Falkirk Ice Rink increased. There always seemed to be a desire to provide prizes for every competition, not just at the Points and so entrance money for each competition was charged to help fund the prizes, but such was the desire to ensure the success of providing them that the committee and officials pledged donations of goods as well as money to make prizes available when new trophies were

introduced. These donations were made at the committee meeting held to organise the competitions. Several people made regular donations for particular trophies, others helped out when they could.

### **The Mitchell Wilson Trophy.**

This was presented to the club in 1939 by patronesses Miss Mitchell and Miss Wilson, Bannockburn House, as a rosebowl (supposedly temporarily as owing to the war situation the club could not procure a new silver trophy but it was never replaced).

The first games were played in 1939/1940 season, as a rinks tournament at Falkirk Ice Rink. Before booking the ice, due to black out conditions and the need to play at Falkirk Ice rink in the evening, the Secretary wrote to all the members of club using a reply paid post card requesting players for the trophy. 8 rinks took part, with David Stewart's rink being first winner. All the players in the first final (winners and runners up) were presented with a roast of beef each. Mr McNaughton, Treasurer (and butcher in Bannockburn) and Mr Kemp, Vice President supplied to roasts to the runners up, the club supplied them to the winners. Special buses were run to take the rinks and spectators to Falkirk for the final.

Prize money was given to the finalists in 1942 of 4/- each in retrospect when it was agreed to give the 1943 winners 8 shillings each from club funds and donations. The President Alex Kemp, donated 32/- to match the club's 32/-. Entrance money to the competition was set at 1 shilling for each member in 1943. The prizes were repeated in 1944. By 1945 there were 16 rinks taking part in the competition and it was the main tournament of the club.

### **The David Miller Cup.**

David Miller Senior presented the cup to the club in 1943 when he was President. It was decided to hold a rinks competition for the cup early in 1944 with winning rink the one having most shots up on the night. An entrance fee of 1 shilling was charged to fund a wooden base and silver plates to inscribe the winners' names. 8 rinks competed for the cup at Falkirk Ice Rink. The club secretary, W.D. Muirhead, won the first competition by 15 shots up. He was presented with the trophy by the President, donor Mr D Miller, at Falkirk Ice Rink.

In the 1945 match, each member of winning rink received 10 shillings (50 pence), runners up 5 shilling from entry money and donations. Mr David Miller gave £1 towards prizes which he repeated for two more seasons along with 8/- from W. Muirhead Foot o' Green. Money left over went to pay for silver inscription plates for the cup. Entry was set at 2 shillings a player for the 1945 match. In 1948 a special double decker bus took 12 rinks to play for the cup. The fare was 2/6d per player with a tip included for the driver. In 1950 the match was played at Crossmyloof Ice Rink as enough ice could not be procured at Falkirk Ice Rink.

### **The Corrieri Cup**

At a committee meeting on 21st September 1961, it was intimated that Mr Corrieri, who was president of Gargunock Curling club some years ago gave them a silver cup and as this club was now defunct he had kindly offered this cup to the club for annual competition.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

The cup was already engraved and had to be reground and the club details substituted. The Gargunnoch winners' names which were fixed to the wooden base were removed and returned to Mr Corrieri, who defrayed the expense of doing so.

It was agreed after a vote to play for this trophy as a 'Colts Match' as the ice for this had already been booked. This young curlers match had been played for the first time the season before.

Mr George McInnes's rink won the trophy for the first time on 8th December 1961 with a score of +5 shots up. Mr Corrieri himself presented the trophy to the winner the following season when John Muirhead's rink won it.

The Corrieri Cup became a league in season 1966-67 with each skip having a pool of players from which to draw his rink, the skips no longer being young curlers but the allotted skips of the club. The then president, W J Hendry won the trophy as a league competition for the first time. The Cup then became the major competition of the club in terms of the number of games played and caused another surge in ice bookings with Falkirk Ice Rink by the club.

### **Muirhead Trophy**

At a committee meeting on the 19th September 1968, the president J.D. Muirhead intimated that he wished to present to the club a trophy in memory of his father W.D. Muirhead, who had been associated with the club in an administrative capacity for many years as Secretary from 1926 – 1965 as well as President from 1948 - 1953

The Muirhead Trophy was played as a knockout competition in the second half of the season. It was first played for on 10th January 1969 and John Brisbane's rink won the final on 26th March 1969 by 16 v 6, or +10 shots up. The club now had two knock out tournaments in the season, with the Mitchell Wilson Trophy in the first half of the season.

### **The Annual Match, Inter-Club Competitions.**

With the opening of Falkirk Ice Rink it was now possible to have matches against other clubs on a yearly basis and it helped make even better existing relationships with your neighbours as you shared the same rink and more frequently, shared the same players as well. These were reinforced with attendance at each other's annual dinner where the trophies for these matches were often presented. So although there was a trophy or a medal to play for, it was also a celebration of the relationship which made it important and the club was to develop a number of these over the years, some of which are still celebrated today.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March 1953, the Centenary Supper of Breadalbane (Aberfeldy) Curling Club, took place at the Breadalbane Arms Hotel, Aberfeldy and was attended by the President Mr W.D. Muirhead representing the Council of the Royal Club. He replied to the Toast of the Pillars of the Bonspiel ("Rivalry", "Good Fellowship", "Our Guests") and Mr Walter Bain as President Elect of the Royal Club replied to the toast of the RCCC. As a consequence of this Sauchie and Bannockburn skipped by Mr W.D. Muirhead and a Grangemouth rink skipped by Mr W. Bain played rinks from Aberfeldy at Falkirk Ice Rink the following November, the minutes note that 'Aberfeldy were delighted with the arrangement and the hospitality'.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

Having experienced the conviviality of the smoking concerts held by the club to present a new trophy, Mr Gavin Reekie of Stirling Tractors Ltd, (see later chapter on trophy) himself a brother curler with Abdie Curling Club, proposed that both clubs play each other at their respective ice rinks.

So for three seasons from 1955 to 1958, the club met Abdie at Perth Ice Rink and Falkirk Ice Rink, with the home club entertaining the visitors to tea. Speeches and stories were traded before everyone returned home. Mr Reekie even managed to play in the first match and said he hoped it would be repeated as everyone seemed to have enjoyed it.

It also says a great deal about the club when you can play for a district medal and win and invite the losers to play again and share a social evening of food, drink and stories. This happened in 1959, when the club played Pitkerro at Dundee Ice Rink. The ice was very damp and dull due to the good weather but it was still a high scoring match, the club winning 59 – 51, eight shots up. After the game they all took High Tea together and as recorded in the minutes ‘fellowship reigned supreme’. The Sauchie and Bannockburn President invited them to play a friendly next season and they accepted. The remainder of the evening was spent in song and story. At Falkirk Ice Rink Pitkerro had several young curlers playing to make up their four rinks and so the game was more one sided. High Tea was again taken and Pitkerro thanked the club for an enjoyable game.

### **D.D. Paterson (1866) Medal**

D.D. Paterson was an occasional for Sauchie and Bannockburn, but a member of Denny Leslie Park and frequently attended the curling suppers and outings held by the club, being a very entertaining speaker with a wide range of interesting stories as well as a good and enthusiastic curler. He pledged a medal he had won at a Points game and from 1940 to 1971 it was played for annually between Sauchie and Bannockburn and Denny Leslie Park. The latter only won it eight times over the period. There were usually four rinks a side and for three years it was played at Crossmyloof Ice Rink in Glasgow, both sides travelling in the same bus to the match. Because of the distance and the time it took, a break for tea from 8:30 to 9:00pm was greatly appreciated. The scores were read out in the bus coming home and the medal presented to the winner as well.

The club lost the medal in 1953, the minutes citing a Farmers Union Dinner being held the same evening of robbing the club of many regular members.

Denny Leslie Park won the medal in 1963, then forgot to bring it the next year, so had to simply congratulate the winners and to accept the medal when it arrived.

Sauchie and Bannockburn did not forget the following year and they were presented with it once more at the ice rink.

It was only in 1970 that two rinks played reflecting the drop in fortunes of the Denny club before it disappeared.

### **Presidents' Match, Cairns-Elder Trophy**

From friendship and frequent visits to the Crossmyloof Ice Rink there developed a match with that Ice Rink's curling club. It was first organised by the two friends who were also Presidents, John Cairns of Sauchie and Bannockburn and Fred Elder of Crossmyloof. What started off as a single match in 1949 at Crossmyloof with the club being treated to a meal and drink afterwards by their hosts

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

became an annual match between the two clubs alternating annually between ice rinks, with the hosts treating the visitors to food and refreshment for having made the journey.

John Cairns passed away shortly before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1950 game and Mr Fred Elder mentioned his passing as an old friend and brother curler and how much they all missed him.

In the early years, six and even seven rinks a side were the norm making these huge social occasions. Owing to a cup tie between Stirling Albion and Celtic on same night, 27<sup>th</sup> February 1954, the Secretary had great difficulty making up the 7 rinks, eventually got 7 players from Denny Leslie Park and 4 from Borestone & Stirling. Mr Fred Elder could not attend due to illness, the first one he had missed since its inception 6 years ago. There was a repeat of the problem in 1956, as the game was played at same time as British Open Championship at Falkirk and the club were missing the President and 7 or 8 others. The Secretary again had great difficulty in making up the rinks, having to bring in the club's 3 lady members and a couple of others from Denny.

After the game in October 1959, when everyone had finished their high tea and the speeches past, Mr Fred Elder announced that he would donate a silver cup to be played for annually between the two clubs if the Presidents would accept it. They did and thanked him for his great generosity.

So it was after the November 1960 match that Mr Willie Arnott in Mr Fred Elder's absence through doctor's orders presented the cup to both clubs. They agreed to continue the match as at present, alternating between ice rinks every year. So Crossmyloof became the first winner of the trophy, by 20 shots. Sauchie and Bannockburn won it the following year by 10 shots.

In 1963, Mr Fred Elder actually presented the trophy to Crossmyloof and gave some stories, helped by two other old members, Mr Willie Arnott of Crossmyloof and Mr William Muirhead former President of Sauchie and Bannockburn.

The results did not go Sauchie and Bannockburn's way till the mid 1960's when they lost only four out of the next twenty matches. Crossmyloof obviously didn't travel well as they only won home fixtures. As both clubs had difficulty raising six rinks they gradually decreased to four rinks a side and the annual fixture continues yet with the meal after the game, making it a very sociable evening with some players renewing their acquaintance on a yearly basis and able to recall past glories during the evening.

### **Polmaise Trophy continued.**

Having won the last outdoor Polmaise Trophy match against Borestone, the club took over almost completely on indoor ice winning from 1950 to 1960 and then from 1962 to 1975. After that it became a more even contest between the two clubs as Borestone had amalgamated with Stirling in 1954 leaving only two clubs in the annual competition.

On several occasions during the first winning run the President of Borestone and Stirling was not present to hand over the trophy, the club simply retaining possession.

In 1961, the clubs actually finished peels at 41 shots each. It was then decided the two Presidents play another head and Borestone and Stirling won by one shot. So for the first and only time he would do so, the club's President, Mr John Brisbane personally handed over the trophy to Mr R. Marshall, President of Borestone and Stirling.

This competition continues to this day and is as keenly contested as ever.

### **David Robertson Trophy**

At the 1949 AGM the Secretary read a letter from Denny C.C. Secretary regarding a new competition request. David Robertson Senior, one of their old and esteemed members had presented a cup to be played for among neighbouring clubs annually. It was to be a knockout competition with 4 rinks a side made up of regular members. The winning club would hold the trophy for one year. The clubs would meet in rotation. The first draw was Bonnybridge v Sauchie & Bannockburn, Denny Leslie Park v Denny. It was agreed to take part and a letter of thanks returned to the Denny Secretary.

The first game against Bonnybridge was over two days as ice could not be obtained for 4 rinks on a single night. The club won the match overall, winning the first game in October 1949 by 18 shots, losing the second game by 14 shots, being 4 shots to the good. The club met Denny in the final on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 1950 and won the trophy by 14 shots. Mr David Robertson attended the final and the trophy was handed over by Mr W. Shanks on behalf of the Denny C.C. at the ice rink.

The club then lost to Denny Leslie Park in the first match the following season, but in 1952 regained the trophy by beating their former conquerors Denny Leslie Park by 22 shots. Denny denied the club the trophy for two more years. In 1956, Laurieston and Zetland replaced Bonnybridge in the tournament and stopped the club in 1959 from progressing, but thereafter a successful winning streak saw the trophy won five times in a row, before Denny once more stopped the run.

In 1969 Bonnybridge made a brief return in place of Denny Leslie Park only to be replaced themselves by Larbert in the 1970s.

The club enjoyed another five year spell of consecutive wins between 1981 and 1985 before the competition ended.

### **Evolution of a New Competition, Stirling Tractors Ltd Cup**

Andrew Young, a member of the club who was also a Director of Stirling Tractors Ltd intimated at the AGM of 1952, that the company would like to give a cup to the club to be played for annually. After accepting the offer there followed a discussion on how it could be played for and initially it was proposed to use the President versus Vice President match.

However, at subsequent committee meetings up to December 1953, Mr Young said the agency took in Stirlingshire, East Dumbarton, part of Perthshire, Clackmannan and Kinross and that clubs from these districts might be asked to compete, specifically neighbouring clubs who had a good farmer membership. This was a new venture for the club as it had never before organised a competition involving a number of other clubs. It was agreed to ask Denny Leslie Park, Tillicoultry, Kippen, Airth, Bruce Castle & Dunmore, Larbert, Dunblane and Kinross to take part.

The conditions of play were discussed and set forth as follows:

- Each club shall be asked to play 1 rink of 4 players on 3 different days.
- 3 separate skips required for the 3 day.
- Skips allowed to play any other day as part of a rink (not skip).
- Club finishing the 3 games with highest aggregate number of shots be declared the winner of the trophy for the season.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

- Prize for highest scoring rink in winning club and also highest scoring rink in rest of rinks.
- Entrance fee of 2/6d per player in all games.
- All players must be regular members of their respective clubs.

The committee agreed to pick skips out of hat for the 3 rinks and that 3rds be picked from skips not already picked. Skips would find their own leads and 2nds to complete their rinks.

The secretary had already booked four sheets of ice for three different days at Falkirk Ice Rink and that the clubs would have to be drawn to suit this. The draw was then made. The matches took place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> March 1954.

Club	Score	Club	Score
Sauchie & Bburn W.D. Muirhead	20	Dunblane	10
Tillicoultry	13	Kippen	13
Denny Leslie Park	9	Larbert	16
Kinross	9	Airth, Bruce Cas & Dunmore	17

Club	Score	Club	Score
Sauchie & Bburn W. Muirhead Fo'G	7	Tillicoultry	12
Denny Leslie Park	10	Kinross	16
Dunblane	10	Kippen	9
Larbert	4	Airth, Bruce Cas & Dunmore	24

Club	Score	Club	Score
Sauchie & Bburn J H Cairns	11	Kippen	20
Tillicoultry		Dunblane	scratched
Denny Leslie Park	5	Airth, Bruce Cas & Dunmore	16
Larbert	14	Kinross	7

At the following office bearers meeting, they agreed that the presentation of prizes would need to be held in larger establishment due to Stirling Tractors Trophy and the invitation of participating clubs. Miller's Tearooms, Stirling, was decided upon with tea, sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes biscuits & cheese, tickets to cost no more than 5/-. Mr Gavin Reekie, the chairman of Stirling Tractors would present the cup and Mr A Young would be responsible for the charge for the hire of this hall. The method of playing for the trophy was discussed as it was not considered a good one. Although a knockout, with 12 clubs and 2 rinks a club was deemed a better competition; no change was made for the next year. Clubs were to be asked to give their farmer members the first choice at playing.

The prize giving took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1954, with Mr Gavin Reekie in attendance along with almost 60 other attendees. It was run along similar lines to the Smoking Concerts held by the club at that time. The main difference was the introduction of Mr Reekie and his speech on his desires for the trophy and its impact on local curling. The Secretary, W.D. Muirhead replied that this would help knit together the friendship that exists between business and pleasure on the ice rink and wished Stirling Tractors every success in future.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

The various club trophies and prizes were then presented and the cups filled and sent round the company. Songs, recitations and stories then completed the night, accompanied by piano.

Financially both the social evening and the competition showed modest balances in favour of the club, some of which was used to inscribe the winners on the trophy.

In preparation for the competition in the coming season, the secretary reported that he had written to 24 local clubs for entries, 10 clubs replied that they could play the two rinks, 8 clubs replied they could not play and 6 clubs did not respond at all. The two skips for the competition were drawn from the list. The secretary and Mr George McNeil, Manager Falkirk Ice Rink made the draw. This time the match was to be played on the points system, two points for a win, one point for a draw. In the event of a tie, the score average to count. The entrance fee remained the same as last year, 2/6d per player. A circular was sent along with two copies of the draw. This time all the matches were played in November 1954, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 2:15 – 5:15pm, 29<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00-6:00pm. The final results table is shown below.

Club	Total
Airth, Bruce Castle & Dunmore	8
Larbert	6
Strathallan	6
Kippen	4
Sauchie & Bannockburn	4
Falkirk	4
Borestone & Stirling	4
Denny	2
Denny Lealie Park	2
Muthill	0

Falkirk had the highest score outwith the winning club, having beaten Muthill 38 v 2. Muthill lost all their matches heavily.

A letter was received from Falkirk Curling Club claiming their No1 rink had won the trophy. It was agreed at a special meeting of the sub-committee that Airth, Bruce Castle & Dunmore had won it with full 8 points and that Falkirk No1 rink were entitled to second prize being the rink with the highest score outwith the winning club. A letter was sent in reply. It was noted in the club minutes that a meeting was held at Falkirk Ice Rink on the Monday night after the final game and a draw made to play semi-final games. This unfortunately was a mistake and the club apologised to the Falkirk club for any inconvenience they had been put to. Falkirk responded with another letter making the same claim. This was also responded to. It appears the competition rules were not clear enough.

There was a Curler's Dinner and presentation of prizes at the Masonic Hall in Bannockburn in 1955 where Mr Reekie once again presented the trophy and donated money for the prizes to go with it. He was treated more as a fellow curler this time, he being a member of the Abdie Curling Club and indeed he proposed a match between the two clubs which became an annual event, playing at both Falkirk and Perth Ice Rinks each year.



## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

Financially, the curler's Dinner cost the club over £5, while the Stirling Tractors Trophy was in surplus of 5d. The engraving would ensure it too was in deficit.

After much discussion it was decided that any rink be allowed to enter, that this time it would be a knockout and that it would be advertised in the Farming News and the Scottish Farmer for two weeks to generate entries. 72 clubs were contacted by the secretary to generate a good response.

This time the competition took place over consecutive days, from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 1955. Eleven full rinks took part in the competition which was eventually won by Willie Young's rink. In the absence of Mr Reekie, the club President, W. Muirhead presented the trophy and the prizes to Mr Young and his rink at the ice rink after the final. It was suggested by Mr McNeil, the ice rink manager, that the end of February might give a bigger turnout as all other major competitions were finished by then.

The trophy was later presented to the President of Airth, Bruce Castle and Dunmore, Mr Robert Young by Mr Reekie at the next Smoking Concert at the Station Hotel, Stirling on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1956. The secretary reported at the next committee meeting that he was out of pocket by £6:10/- for last season's competition and the club paid for this out of club funds but to seek redress from Stirling Tractors. It was also felt that the fee charged for entry was dissuading rinks from playing so the need to come to some arrangement for providing prizes while encouraging more entrants. The Smoking Concert had also made over £3 of a loss.

The secretary wrote to Mr Reekie regarding the funding but received no reply. Mr Young was approached and he offered £10 for the prizes and expenses, but the club thought £20 was more appropriate. The issue was not resolved before the match was cancelled for February 1957 due to petrol restrictions and the secretary wrote a letter for Mr Reekie stating this and he replied by telephone concurring.

The next recorded match took place from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 1959. 26 rinks now took part. W.D. Muirhead skipped a rink in the final owing to original skip, W. Hendry being ill. W. Young was again the other finalist and he retained the trophy. The Vice President of the club took the chair and presented the trophy and the prizes in the absence of Mr Reekie. It was a rink competition now, clubs no longer being directly involved and Sauchie and Bannockburn did not select the skips for it. It was left to members to form rinks and enter the competition directly.

There is no record of a game in 1960 in the club minutes, but one in 1961 from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February. 28 rinks took part. A new winner was recorded with the presentation of the trophy and prizes done by the President of the club, John Brisbane at the Ice Rink directly after the final.

Over the summer, the management of Stirling Tractors changed and Mr Young no longer represented them. The next competition recorded for the 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1962 was run by the ice rink, with their manager Jack Read taking the chair and Stirling Tractors represented by R.K. Walker, Director, who presented the trophy and prizes and C.W. Dunn, Manager. 32 rinks took part this time. The winning rink was from Sauchie and Bannockburn, skipped by W. Hendry (who had been ill and missed the final in 1959). Both sides had finished peels at 9 v 9 and an extra end was played, W. Hendry winning by a single shot.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

The competition was now fully independent of the club, with prize giving taking place in the lounge of the ice rink and Stirling Tractors taking part in the ceremony. In 1964, 35 rinks took part with the final between two previous winners, W. Young and W. Hendry, with W. Young winning again. At the prize giving the club secretary W.D. Muirhead, who had been spectating, was invited to speak on the history of the trophy, which he did. In 1965, the last mention of the tournament in the club minutes, the secretary noted that the match was now in good hands. The club had been successful in building it up and handing it over to the ice rink to continue and he had been a key part in that success. It was one of his last entries as he stepped down as secretary after 39 years shortly after.

### Most Successful Period 1967 - 1974

In the late 1950's and on into the early 1960's the club won the Province Aitken trophy for the first time, won the Murray Cup for only the second time indoors and then had several runners up positions across all the Province Trophies of Dunn, Aitken and Murray. However several defeats in the David Robertson Cup were recorded, once in the first round. The same was true of the other inter-club games played, the Cairns Elder Trophy against Crossmyloof, the D.D. Paterson (1866) Medal against Denny Leslie Park and the first loss to Borestone and Stirling for the Polmaise Trophy in thirteen years.

In 1967 to 1968 season, through to 1974 the club responded to meet the challenge and it produced its best results.

Date	Where	Played	Match result	Shots	Competition	Result	Rinks
01/11/1967	Crossmyloof Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Won	16	Presidents Cairns Elder	Won trophy	6
17/11/1967	Falkirk Ice Rink	Denny Leslie Park	Won	13	DD Paterson (1866) Medal	Won medal	4
21/12/1967	Falkirk Ice Rink	Laurieston & Zetland	Won	57	David Robertson Cup		4
25/01/1968	Falkirk Ice Rink	Borestone & Stirling	Won	54	Polmaise Trophy	Won trophy	5
26/01/1968	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	21	Aitken Trophy	Runners up	2
22/02/1968	Falkirk Ice Rink	Denny	Won	8	David Robertson Cup	Won trophy	4
14/03/1968	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	21	Murray Trophy	Won trophy	2
13/11/1968	Falkirk Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Won	12	Presidents Cairns Elder	Won trophy	6
15/11/1968	Falkirk Ice Rink	Denny Leslie Park	Won	9	DD Paterson (1866) Medal	Won medal	3
22/11/1968	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	12	Dunn Trophy	Won trophy	2
17/01/1969	Falkirk Ice Rink	Laurieston & Zetland	Won	30	David Robertson Cup		4
30/01/1969	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	12	Aitken Trophy	Runners up	2
01/02/1969	Falkirk Ice Rink	Borestone & Stirling	Won	4	Polmaise Trophy	Won trophy	5
04/02/1969	Falkirk Ice Rink	Bonnybridge	Won	38	David Robertson Cup	Won trophy	4
13/03/1969	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	12	Murray Trophy	Runners up	2
29/10/1969	Crossmyloof Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Lost	-19	Presidents Cairns Elder		6

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

14/11/1969	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	27	Dunn Trophy	Won trophy	2
28/11/1969	Falkirk Ice Rink	Bonnybridge	Won	37	David Robertson Cup		4
04/12/1969	Falkirk Ice Rink	Denny Leslie Park	Won	24	DD Paterson (1866) Medal	Won medal	2
16/01/1970	Falkirk Ice Rink	Borestone & Stirling	Won	33	Polmaise Trophy	Won trophy	5
30/01/1970	Falkirk Ice Rink	Denny	Won	10	David Robertson Cup	Won trophy	4
06/02/1970	Falkirk Ice Rink	Strathendrick	Won	14	District Medal	Won medal	2
12/03/1970	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	20	Murray Trophy	Won trophy	2
04/11/1970	Falkirk Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Won	7	Presidents Cairns Elder	Won trophy	5
13/11/1970	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Peels		Dunn Trophy		2
27/11/1970	Falkirk Ice Rink	Denny	Won	8	David Robertson Cup		4
15/01/1971	Falkirk Ice Rink	Borestone & Stirling	Won	29	Polmaise Trophy	Won trophy	5
19/01/1971	Falkirk Ice Rink	Denny Leslie Park	Won	4	DD Paterson (1866) Medal	Won medal	2
21/01/1971	Falkirk Ice Rink	Laurieston & Zetland	Won	14	David Robertson Cup	Won trophy	4
28/01/1971	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	28	Aitken Trophy	Won trophy	2
11/03/1971	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	13	Murray Trophy	Won trophy	2
03/11/1971	Crossmyloof Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Won	23	Presidents Cairns Elder	Won trophy	5
12/11/1971	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Peels		Dunn Trophy		2
17/12/1971	Falkirk Ice Rink	Denny	Lost	-4	David Robertson Cup		4
21/01/1972	Falkirk Ice Rink	Borestone & Stirling	Won	35	Polmaise Trophy	Won trophy	5
28/01/1972	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	11	Aitken Trophy		2
10/03/1972	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	12	Murray Trophy	Won trophy	2
20/10/1972	Falkirk Ice Rink	Laurieston & Zetland	Won	32	David Robertson Cup		4
08/11/1972	Falkirk Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Won	31	Presidents Cairns Elder	Won trophy	4
17/11/1972	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	20	Dunn Trophy	Won trophy	2
15/12/1972	Falkirk Ice Rink	Denny	Won	37	David Robertson Cup	Won trophy	4
18/01/1973	Falkirk Ice Rink	Borestone & Stirling	Won	31	Polmaise Trophy	Won trophy	5
26/01/1973	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	5	Aitken Trophy	Runners up	2
31/01/1973	Falkirk Ice Rink	Borestone & Stirling	Won	32	District Medal	Won medal	4
12/10/1973	Falkirk Ice Rink	Larbert	Won	1	David Robertson Cup		2
07/11/1973	Crossmyloof Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Won	11	Presidents Cairns Elder	Won trophy	5
16/11/1973	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	3	Dunn Trophy		2
19/12/1973	Falkirk Ice Rink	Laurieston & Zetland	Won	22	David Robertson Cup	Won trophy	2

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

18/01/1974	Falkirk Ice Rink	Borestone & Stirling	Won	19	Polmaise Trophy	Won trophy	5
24/01/1974	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	26	Aitken Trophy	Won trophy	2
22/03/1974	Falkirk Ice Rink	Various	Won	36	Murray Trophy	Won trophy	2

In season 1967/68 the skips in order of seniority were:

John Brisbane, W.J. Hendry, R Armstrong, Alex McWattie, James D. Muirhead, W.C. Walden, G McInnes, A Bullions. Of those listed, three would play throughout this period. They were Alex McWattie, James D. Muirhead and A Bullions. J.W. Scott was a reserve skip. They played a key part in the success achieved. New skips D. Stewart Junior and C.W. Dunn proved able replacements for two who retired and one who left the area. Below is a table of games won played by these skips leading the rinks while winning the trophies and medals in the competitions previously listed.

Skip	1967/68	1968/69	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	Total
John Brisbane	2	2	4			1		9
W.C. Walden	2	3						5
R. Armstrong	3	1						4
W.J. Hendry	2	1		1	1	4	1	10
Alex McWattie	4	2	5	4	2	2	1	20
J.D. Muirhead	3	5	5	3	1	1	3	21
G. McInnes	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	12
A. Bullions	1	2	4	2	2	4	2	17
J.W. Scott	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	12
D. Stewart Jr.				3	2	3	1	9
C.W. Dunn				2	1	1	2	6

These same elected skips dominated the club trophies over the same period, winning 22 out of a total of 26 competitions with J. D. Muirhead, D. Stewart Jr. and G. McInnes being the most successful. John Brisbane won a further two trophies after he had retired as an elected skip. The elected skips also won 5 out of the 7 points matches held, ably demonstrating their individual skill.

There was a limit of 80 members of the club agreed at the AGM. For the Province Trophies, Aitken, Dunn and Murray, so successful was the club that it was agreed that the club would assist with the cost of providing refreshment for the other competitors should club rinks be fortunate enough to win any of these competitions. It was agreed that two thirds of the cost of providing hospitality would be borne by the club. There was now less of a penalty to the players for being successful.

At this time the club had 49 rinks of ice booked and played on in the season. 27 rinks from the club played in external competitions. By the end of the period, 56 rinks of ice would be regularly booked, but external matches would drop to 22 rinks.

In club tournaments, 12 rinks took part in Mitchell Wilson trophy knockout; 12 rinks took part in David Miller Trophy bonspiel; 9 rinks played in Corrieri Cup league with pools of players each and they played each other once for a total of 8 games. For season 1968/69, a new trophy was played for as a knockout, the Muirhead Trophy. This was presented by J.D. Muirhead in memory of his father

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

who died that year having been secretary of the club from 1926 to 1965. The Corrieri Cup was trimmed from 9 rinks back to 8 and extra ice purchased for the Muirhead knockout competition.

At the Crossmyloof Ice Rink 1<sup>st</sup> November 1967, the club won the Cairns Elder Trophy for the fourth time to make the score equal. The club went on to win 7 of the next 9 matches.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1967, the club won the D.D. Paterson (1866) Medal against Denny Leslie Park by a majority of 17 shots. This was part of a winning run from 1964 up to 1971 when Denny Leslie Park amalgamated with Denny.

Not everything went smoothly. In the Dunn Trophy, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 1967, the club had entered two rinks, however at the 5 o'clock session the rink skipped by Alex Bullions did not turn up and the other rink was not allowed to play. The club lost to Crossmyloof on their ice by 19 shots, playing with 6 rinks a side in season 1969/70.

The David Robertson Cup consisted of two rounds, with four clubs competing, the two winners of the first round meeting in the final for the trophy. Laurieston and Zetland were beaten in the first round and Denny beaten in the final to win the trophy. Each round was 4 rinks a side. The club won the trophy every year from 1967 to 1970, then from 1972 through to 1976.

The club won the Polmaise Trophy against Borestone and Stirling by 85 shots to 31 with 5 rinks a side. This was part of another long winning streak from 1962 to 1975.

At the end of the 1967/68 season, on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1968, skips R Armstrong and A McWattie won the Murray Trophy with greatest majority of 21 shots. In season 1969/70, the club won the Murray Trophy once more by a majority of 20 shots then retained it the following season on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1971 with a majority of 13 shots. Remarkably on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1972, the Murray Trophy was won for third time in a row.

The club won the Dunn Trophy for the first time on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1968 winning with a majority of 12 shots. G McInnes and J.D. Muirhead were the skips and refreshments were provided for the other competitors. Then having won it for the first time last year, the club retained the Dunn Trophy on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1969 with a majority of 27 shots.

The club played and won a district medal match against Strathendrick by 14 shots on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1970.

The club won the Aitken Trophy with a majority of 28 shots on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1971 for only the third time.

For season 1972/73, on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1972, the Dunn Trophy was won for the third time since the first win in 1968 and won a district medal match against Borestone and Stirling on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1973.

The following season, the David Robertson Trophy was reduced to 2 rinks a side. The club played Larbert for first time and won by one shot in first round. They then beat Laurieston and Zetland in the final by 22 shots. On the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1974, the club won the Aitken trophy for the fourth time by 26 shots and followed this on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1974, by winning the Murray Trophy once more.

A truly remarkable period in the club's history.

### **Pairs Competition (A new way of playing)**

J.D. Muirhead raised the possibility of the club running a Pairs competition at the AGM in 1975. Many members had taken part in Falkirk Ice Rink's own Pairs competition so there was a demand for such a competition. The proposal and the problems running such a competition were discussed and the majority present were in favour of the idea. Pairs matches use half the time that a full rink game would use as only 4 players are on the ice at one time. This allows two pairs matches to play the same ice to keep the cost to each player the same as a rink match. So timing is important if everyone is to be given a fair chance as the first game must finish on time. The two games must be completed on the rink within the normal rink session time allocated. This does not hold true for the final and a sheet of ice has to be booked for it separately. Because of this, the ice charge is more expensive for Pairs and can lead to financial losses. A skip is drawn and a lead. It was left to the committee to organise the first competition.

The first competition took place at the end of the 1975/76 season and the final was won by J.C. Scobie and C. MacRae by 7 shots to 6. Entry was restricted to 16 pairs with the partnerships being drawn by the committee. At the AGM following, J.Campbell Hope intimated that he would present a trophy for the Pairs competition. The trophy took the form of two candelabras, one for each player to hold for a year. So the Campbell Hope Trophy took place again at the end of the season over three days with 16 pairs taking part with the winner being D.K. MacRae and D. Shaw scoring 5 shots to 1.

The closure of Falkirk Ice Rink put paid to any further competition till the move to Stirling took place.

Pairs matches were also mixed from the start of curling in Stirling, ladies and gents being drawn from a single pot.

The loss on Pairs by 1990 was £32 and together with the losses made with Points was a considerable drain on club finances each year.

### **Falkirk Ice Rink Closure**

There appears to have been no warning that Falkirk Ice Rink would not reopen for season 1977/78 and so much confusion resulted from a large number of curling clubs looking for ice that any available rinks in the surrounding ice rinks was quickly booked up. When the club played Crossmyloof on their ice, they were asked to book the ice for next year as well to continue the games. This they did along with arranging the meal afterwards, which Sauchie and Bannockburn would pay for.

At a Special General Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 1977 in the Tartan Arms, Bannockburn, the President, J.W. Scott explained that the meeting had been called to take certain decisions following upon the closure of Falkirk Ice Rink. The Secretary, Alex McWattie had followed up Crossmyloof's offer of some spare ice and had accepted one sheet of ice on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> April and four sheets on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

It was agreed that if donors were alive, their trophies would be returned to their custody until such time as they could be played for again and that all others would be lodged in the bank for safe keeping before the next AGM. The club still had to pay RCCC fees and so subscriptions remained in place at £2.50

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

There was already a steering committee working towards a proposed new ice rink in Stirling which had held its inaugural meeting, but no further details were forthcoming as to when it would be completed.

The David Miller Cup took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1978 thanks to the Crossmyloof donation of ice and 8 rinks took part, a reduced number from previous competitions to fit the available ice.

The David Robertson Cup tournament took place at Kinross Ice Rink, late in April, with two rinks playing and the club winning the trophy after two matches. At the following AGM, 59 subscriptions had been paid, but 20 were outstanding. It was agreed that efforts be made to collect all subscriptions. With £287 in the bank, the club committed to one share of £200 in the new ice rink.

In season 1978/1979, there was no change in the availability of ice. The annual game against Crossmyloof went ahead as did the David Robertson Cup, the latter a single game, with most shots up winning the trophy. The club won it by one shot. Stirling and District Ladies club challenged Sauchie and Bannockburn to a curling match at Kinross Ice Rink, where three rinks a side played. Many of the ladies are also members of Sauchie and several husband versus wife games took place. After the match, the ladies entertained our members to a meal at the Rumbling Bridge Hotel and socialising afterwards. This was to become a regular match.

For season 1979/1980, despite the hardship, nine new members were admitted to the club, taking it over the eighty mark despite removing five for not paying subscriptions for two years in a row. Five more were written to reminding them of their subscriptions for last year.

A member, Duncan MacRae, provided 4 sheets of ice at Kinross Ice Rink that he no longer required and this enabled the club to play the Mitchell Wilson Trophy as a one off bonspiel. The Crossmyloof Stirling and District Ladies and David Robertson Cup games were all played. The full list below.

Date	Ice Rink	Opponents			Competition	Result	Rinks
02/11/1977	Crossmyloof Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Won	4	Presidents Cairns Elder		5
27/03/1978	Crossmyloof Ice Rink	Private			David Miller Cup		8
16/04/1978	Kinross Ice Rink	Laurieston & Zetland	Won	18	David Robertson Cup		2
23/04/1978	Kinross Ice Rink	Larbert	Won	3	David Robertson Cup	Won trophy	2
08/11/1978	Crossmyloof Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Lost	-3	Presidents Cairns Elder		5
20/01/1979	Kinross Ice Rink	Denny	Won	4	David Robertson Cup	Won trophy	1
02/02/1979	Kinross Ice Rink	Stirling & District Ladies	Won	28			3
07/11/1979	Crossmyloof Ice Rink	Crossmyloof	Won	1	Presidents Cairns Elder		5
13/10/1979	Kinross Ice Rink	Private			Mitchell/Wilson Trophy		8
02/12/1979	Kinross Ice	Laurieston &	Won	11	David Robertson		1

	Rink	Zetland			Cup		
30/12/1979	Kinross Ice Rink	Laurieston & Zetland	Won	13	David Robertson Cup		1
25/01/1980	Kinross Ice Rink	Stirling & District Ladies	Lost	-2			4
13/04/1980	Kinross Ice Rink	Denny	Lost	-2	David Robertson Cup		1

For the coming season of 1980/1981, the new Stirling Ice Rink would be ready. It was decided to apply for all of the club's ice requirements at Stirling, to make several alterations to the order of playing club competitions and to include a new knock-out trophy. The club now owned 2 shares of £200 each in Stirling Ice Rink and the membership was once more at its maximum of eighty.

### **A New Home, Stirling Ice Rink**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 1980, the club played for the first time at the newly opened Stirling Ice Rink at Williamfield for a new trophy in the opening bonspiel, called the Morrison trophy. 12 rinks took part in the competition. The Mitchell Wilson Trophy knock-out with 12 rinks was followed by the Corrieri Cup league of 8 rinks. A new knock-out competition with 12 rinks for the Hendry Trophy was added in the middle of the Corrieri Cup and when the latter finally finished, the Muirhead knock-out also with 12 rinks completed the rink competitions. The Pairs competition followed and finally the Points. There was no David Miller Cup this time.

With the new ice rink available, all previous competitions, both Province and RCCC were restored once more. For the visit of the Crossmyloof club to Stirling, the club took the players to the Terraces Hotel in Stirling for refreshments and a meal. The David Robertson Cup remained a two rink a side competition and the cup was won by the club. 6 rinks a side took part in the game against Stirling and District Ladies Club. The Dunn, Aitken and Murray Trophies were again played for.

More curling was now being played than when the club played at Falkirk. The subscriptions jumped from £2.50 to £5 to cover the rising cost of playing as a club with large fixed ice charges and many trophies to maintain, but had little impact on the number of members, remaining around eighty.

As season 1982/1983 was the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club, a Christmas bonspiel for a new trophy was added, called the Bullions Trophy in memory of a former member and skip presented by his daughter Kirsty Bullions who would go on to become the first Lady President of the club.

In season 1983/1984, the David Miller Trophy was revived as the closing bonspiel. There was some dissatisfaction with the Corrieri Cup league that season and so in 1984/1985 season, it was split into two leagues of 6 rinks, each league deciding a winner to play each other for the trophy. This meant a total of 31 games for this trophy alone.

Finally in 1990, a trophy in memory of Alex McWattie, who was a former skip, President and Secretary of the club, was presented and this was played for as a league. All the trophies of the present day club were now in place. As membership numbers have reduced so has the amount of matches to be played.



The club now had all the different types of curling competitions available to the members.



Figure 6 All the club trophies

At the 2007 anniversary celebration, the Provost of Stirling, Margaret Brisley, presented the club with a new trophy called the Provost's Quaich. The club award this trophy to the most successful playing member over the season, points awarded for playing and being in winning teams.

## *The Social and Administrative History of the Club*

### **NEW CURLING CLUB.**

As recorded in the Stirling Journal, 6th February 1857.

A new curling club has been formed in our neighbourhood under the title Sauchie and Canglour Curling Club. The club was constituted at a meeting held in Pirnhall Cottage on Monday evening. Archibald Campbell Esq. of Sauchie House was elected president and his lady patroness while Robert Rae Esq. of Hallquarter was chosen vice president and William Allan Esq treasurer and secretary. About 20 gentlemen became members of the society and the evening was spent in the utmost good fellowship. The curlers' fare, beef and greens, were not wanting and success to the new club was drunk in tumblers of excellent whisky toddy.

The formation of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (RCCC) encouraged many more people to come together and form recognised curling clubs. Sauchie and Canglour Curling Club was predated by several long standing local clubs such as Borestone, Bridge of Allan, Doune and Dunblane. Most of these new clubs were also rural in their membership and pond location.

The club is not mentioned again until 1860 when it was admitted to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (RCCC) as reported in the Caledonian Mercury, July 26th 1860

At the 23rd Annual Meeting in the Waterloo Rooms in Edinburgh, 25th July 1860 Sauchie and Canglour Curling Club was initiated along with neighbouring clubs Cardross and Kepp, Dunblane Thistle, Port of Monteith, and Muiravonside.

### **The Rules of the Club.**

From the Club minute book drawn up after initiation into the RCCC and probably at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1860 at Pirnhall Cottage come the first entries below.

Rule 1 The club shall hold an annual general meeting on the first Tuesday of October in each year for the election of office bearers and other business of the club.

Rule 2 That the office bearers shall consist of Patron, President, Vice President, Representative Members, Treasurer, Secretary, and a committee or council of management consisting of five members.

Rule 3 That a special meeting may at any time be called on a requisition from any eight members of the club or five office bearers or by the President himself.

Rule 4 That the Office Bearers shall have full powers to carry out all arrangements connected with the club. Five being a quorum.

Rule 5 That the secretary shall keep a record or book in which shall be entered all minutes of the meetings and other writing and correspondence connected with the club and exhibit the same at every such general or special meeting or to the office bearers when called on. The Treasurer to keep a correct statement of the funds of the club in a book and exhibit in the same manner.

Rule 6 That new members shall be admitted after being proposed and seconded at the above annual general meeting or at a special meeting to be called as afore said. All persons wishing to become members must give in their names to the secretary and the secretary shall report the same to the president within eight days thereafter.

Rule 7 The entry fee of each member shall be five shillings on payment of which and after his initiation his name shall be added to the list of members.

Rule 8 That the annual subscription of each member shall be one shilling payable at the annual general meeting and when a member falls one year in arrears he shall be liable to be struck out of the list of members, unless cause to the contrary shall be shown to the office bearers.

Rule 9 In case of any repairs becoming necessary to the curling pond, the office bearers have it in their power to carry the same into effect and to levy from each member his proportion of the expense.

Rule 10 It is understood that each member shall have a pair of curling stones on the ice and in the event of any member not having stones after one season of ice shall be liable at the discretion of the office bearers to be cut off the list of members.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

Rule 11 That these rules and regulations cannot be altered except at the annual general meeting and notice of such alterations must be given at the previous annual general meeting.

Rule 12 That the annual general meeting be constituted by the reading of these rules.

### Club Resolutions

In the club minutes, on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1867 at a formal meeting at Pirnhall Cottage, the following resolutions were proposed, seconded and passed:

First

That on the fixing of any meeting of the club every member without exception shall receive a written notice eight days before the time fixed for such meeting.

Second

If Ordinary Regular members do not appear after having received proper intimation, at the general meeting of the club they shall be fined in the sum of sixpence. The said sum to go to the funds of the club.

Third

That two members be appointed with discretionary powers to cause such repairs on the pond as are necessary to be done. The members appointed being "Wm Cowan", "A Goodwin", "W. Patterson".

Fourth

Any rinks going to the grand Match to pay their own expenses to the Caledonian Club.

The club now had a full set of rules for managing the club, the membership, the pond, and the finances. It should be noted that there was a fee due to join the club as well as a yearly subscription and that club members had to have their own curling stones eventually.

The call to register the club under the new Licensing Act for Scotland in 1903 enforced a review of the club rules and regulations which were agreed a Special General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1903 then submitted to the Sheriff for his approval. Further changes had to be made to get that approval. On 27<sup>th</sup> January 1904, at a further Special General Meeting, in the Commercial Hotel, Bannockburn, the Secretary Mr W. Wilson reported that the rules as adopted at last meeting had been submitted to the Sheriff who was not satisfied with two of the rules. He and Mr Kemp had altered these rules in the sense desired by the Sheriff who was satisfied with these changes and granted the club a certificate of registration which the secretary exhibited at the meeting. It was agreed to adopt the rules as laid on the table before the meeting. The Secretary explained that he and Mr Kemp had gone through the minute book and extracted the various bye laws, four in number, which were submitted to the meeting. These bye laws were agreed to after discussion except the last which was amended to the following "that a member who has won Mrs Steel Maitland's stones cannot take them until they have been again competed for 5 times."

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

The other three Bye Laws adopted at this SGM in 1904 were as follows:

- I. That when playing Points for medals and other prizes members who come late shall not be allowed to play the points which had been played before their arrival.
- II. That on the occasion of such games, the Secretary be instructed to intimate the same to members living at a distance the day before the game is to be played.
- III. That the pair of curling stones presented by Mrs Steel Maitland be played for at Points along with the club medals and the stones be the 1<sup>st</sup> prize.

Rules of the club as approved by the Sheriff, in 1903.

1. The club shall hold an annual general meeting on or about the first Tuesday of October in each year for the election of office bearers and transact other business of the club. Eight to form a quorum.
2. The office bearers shall consist of President, Vice President, Representative Members, Treasurer, Secretary and a Committee of Management consisting of six members and that no member of committee or governing body and no servant employed in the club shall have any personal interest in the sale of excisable liquors there in or in the profits arising from such sale. Two members of the committee shall retire in rotation each year and shall not be eligible to reselection till one year has passed.
3. That a special meeting may at any time be called in the requisition from any eight members of the club or from the office bearers or the President himself.
4. The office bearers, three being a quorum shall have full powers to carry out all arrangements connected with the club and they shall meet quarterly and at such other times as the business of the club may require.
5. The Secretary shall keep a record book in which shall be recorded all minutes of meetings and other writings and correspondence connected with the club and shall exhibit the same at the annual general meeting or any special meeting or to the office bearers when called in. The Treasurer shall keep a correct statement of the income and expenditure of the club and shall exhibit it in the same like manner when called in.
6. Applicants for admission into the club must be proposed and seconded by two members of the club at a general meeting and admitted and accepted by the members thereof. The names and addresses of persons proposed as ordinary members of the club shall be for at least a week displayed in a conspicuous place in the club premises before their election and an interval of at least three weeks shall elapse between nomination and election of ordinary members.
7. The entry money for each member shall be 10/- payable in advance.
8. The annual subscription of each member shall be 2/6 payable at the annual general meeting. If a member's subscription be one year in arrears he shall be liable to be struck off the list of members unless cause to the contrary be shown to the committee.
9. In case of any repairs or alterations becoming necessary at the club house and pond, the committee shall have it in their power to carry the same into effect and to levy on such members his proportion of the expense thereof in addition to his annual subscription.
10. Any person having been a regular member of the club for a long term of years may on the recommendation of the committee be admitted an honorary member at the annual general meeting.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

11. A visitor shall not be supplied with excisable liquors in the club premises unless on the invitation and in the company of a member and the member shall upon the admission of each visitor to the club premises or immediately upon his being supplied with such liquors enter his own name and the name and address of the visitor in a book which shall be kept for the purpose and which shall show the date of each visit.
12. In the event of a match with another club, the players of that club shall be admitted as temporary honorary members of the club for the day on which the match is played only and their names and addresses will be inserted in a book and vouched for by any one of the office bearers and another member of the club.
13. No excisable liquors shall be sold or supplied to members of temporary honourable members or to any other person under 18 years of age.
14. No excisable liquor shall be sold or supplied for consumption outside the premises of the club except to a member on the premises for his own consumption.
15. Any alterations to the rules can only be made at a general meeting and notice given of any alteration must be given in writing to the Secretary fourteen days before the meeting is held.
16. It is understood that each member shall have a pair of curling stones on the ice and in event of any member not having a pair of curling stones after one season he shall at the discretion of the committee be liable to be struck off the list of members.
17. Any rinks going to the Grand Match at Carsebreck shall pay their own expenses.

The rules regarding the sale of alcohol were in addition to those necessary for the functioning of the curling club and reflected the concerns of the authorities at the time. Sauchie and Bannockburn never had licensed premises, although another local club, Stirling, applied for and received a license to sell alcohol.

The rules were modified to restrict membership to 50 in 1930 and then this was removed in 1938.

At an office bearers' meeting in 1941 it was agreed to review the rules of the club for the next AGM. At the 1942 AGM these were presented to the members and approval given. It was decided that a book containing the rules should be printed for each member and 250 were printed by the Stirling Observer to give a considerable number of books for future members. There is no record of these rules.

Even in 1960, the club was unwilling to give up the right to the pond, citing the constitutional requirement for one and the time, effort and expense put into it by the club.

The 27<sup>th</sup> April 1970 AGM agreed a new constitution which removed the last references to outdoor curling and requiring a pond as well as moving the AGM to the end of the season in line with the requirements laid down by the RCCC.

The modern version of the constitution, Code of Rules and a Code of Conduct was produced in 1999 and these reflected the priorities of the 21st Century for respect for diversity, child protection, ethical behaviour, fairness and a supportive culture as well as restating the roles of officials and the functioning of the club.

## Club Membership.

As listed in the RCCC annual of 1860/61 the membership and organisation were as follows:

### Patrons

John Lewis Esquire, West Plean

### President

Thomas Bulloch

### Secretary and Treasurer

William Allan

### Vice President

Robert Rae

### Representative Members

Thomas Bulloch

William Muirhead

### Committee Council of Management

A Rennie Junior

William Muirhead

A Thomson

John Waddell

### Ordinary Member

#### Regular

William Crawford

Thomas Bulloch

Alex Goodwin

Andrew Thomson

William Muirhead

William Cowan

Walter Patterson

Robert Miller

John Waddell

William Allan

Alexander Rennie Senior

Robert Rae

Alexander Rennie Junior

### Ordinary Member

#### Occasional

Jas Brown

Robert Dawson

A Christie

Robert Meiklejohn

John Lewis

RCCC Annual 1860/61

A regular member of the club has Sauchie and Bannockburn as their 'Mother Club' whereas an occasional member of this club has another curling club as his 'Mother' club (recognised as his home club by the RCCC) and plays an occasional match for this club. Both membership types have the same rights and pay the same fees for joining and subscribing. In terms of membership numbers Sauchie and Canglour was a small club by the standard of the day. At the 1876 AGM, it is noted that for the first time a miner, J.A. Cairns from Dunmore Pit was made a member. Throughout the history of the club, there has always been a wide range of ages in the membership, with many father and son members. Indeed there are a number of recorded deaths of active members in the minutes with some memberships lasting well over forty years. John Muirhead had been President for 26 years and member for over 62 years on his death in 1933. William Muirhead had been Vice President for 25 years on his death in 1898.



## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

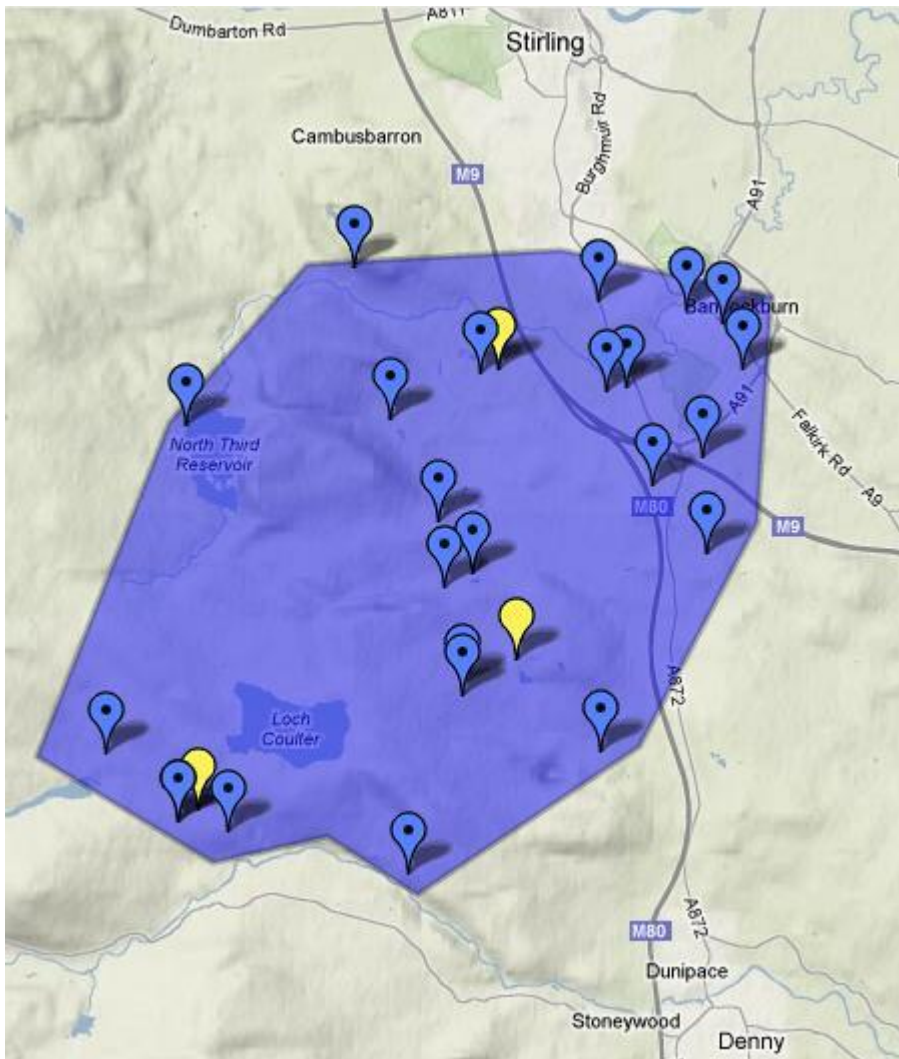


Figure 7 Map of Sauchie and Canglour Members (blue) and curling ponds used (yellow).

Where it has been recorded, there was a drift in membership from the rural areas around Auchinbowie towards Bannockburn itself and surrounding neighbourhoods of Whins of Milton and St Ninians with more urban occupations such as innkeeper, butcher etc. joining the club. In 1890 the club created a chaplain of the club when the Rev. James Allan, Bannockburn joined the club and later when other ministers joined, there was a rotation of who was club chaplain. The core of the membership remained farmers and special farming events such as harvest, agricultural shows and markets had to be avoided to

minimise their impact on the activities of the club. From the opening of Falkirk Ice Rink when the restriction of the membership to fifty was rescinded, the new membership was drawn from a wider area including Denny, Dunblane, Bridge of Allan and Stirling as well as Bannockburn.

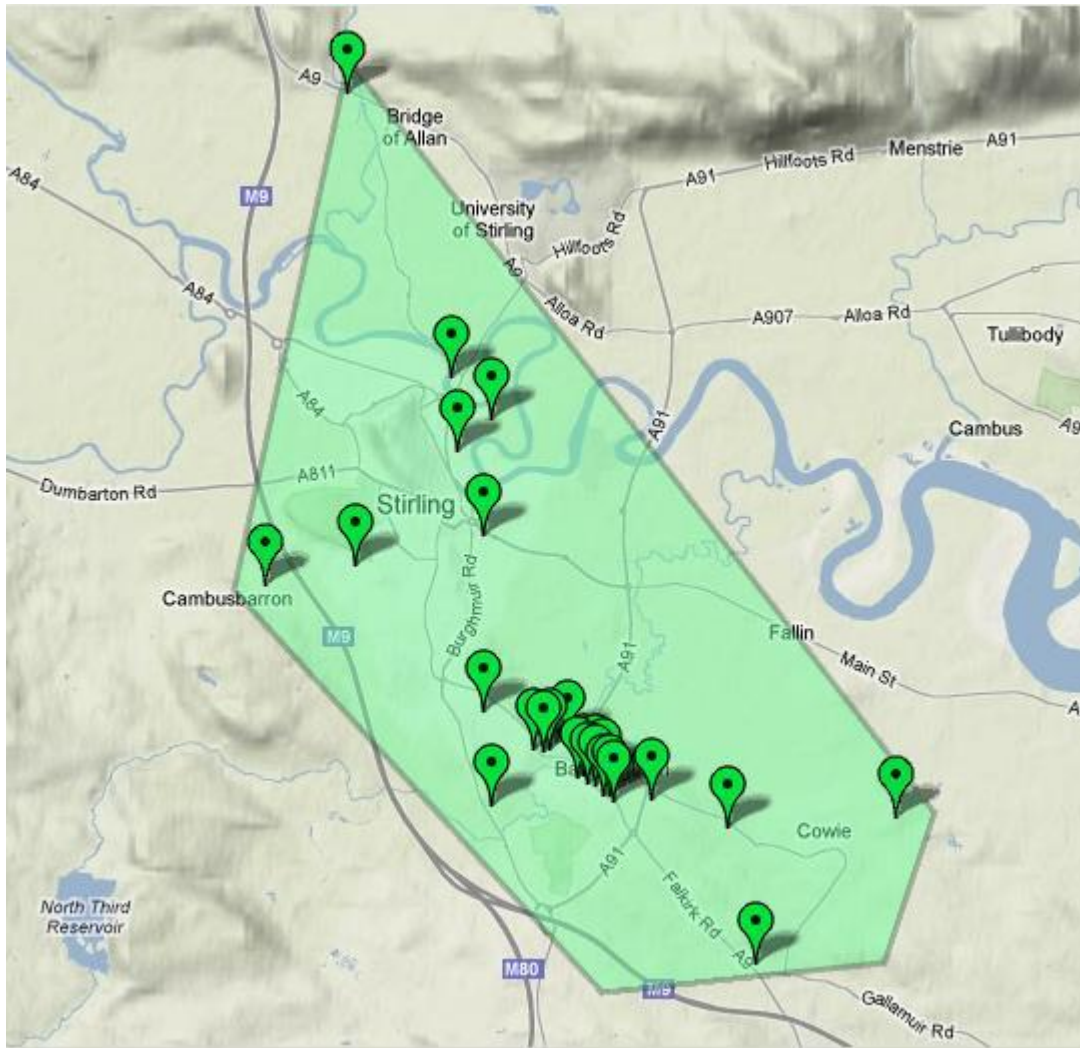


Figure 8 New Members in 1938 to 1939.

The last chaplain, Rev. David Dick, resigned his membership and chaplain role in 1952 when he became too busy to curl and so the post was allowed to lapse.

By 1954 the club claimed 100 members. On 30<sup>th</sup> November 1955, the first three lady members were admitted to the club. These were wives of club members. Lady curlers playing alongside men had been noted as early as 1912 at a grand match at Carsebreck. The two world wars and the acceptance of women in the workplace did not seem to have hastened their admittance to the club. The first Curling Supper and Curlers Court to be attended by ladies took place in 1960. After some committee discussion, it was agreed in 1967 to restrict the membership to 79, in practice 80. In 1973, seven women members transferred their membership to the newly formed Stirling and District Ladies Curling Club, but remained as occasionals.



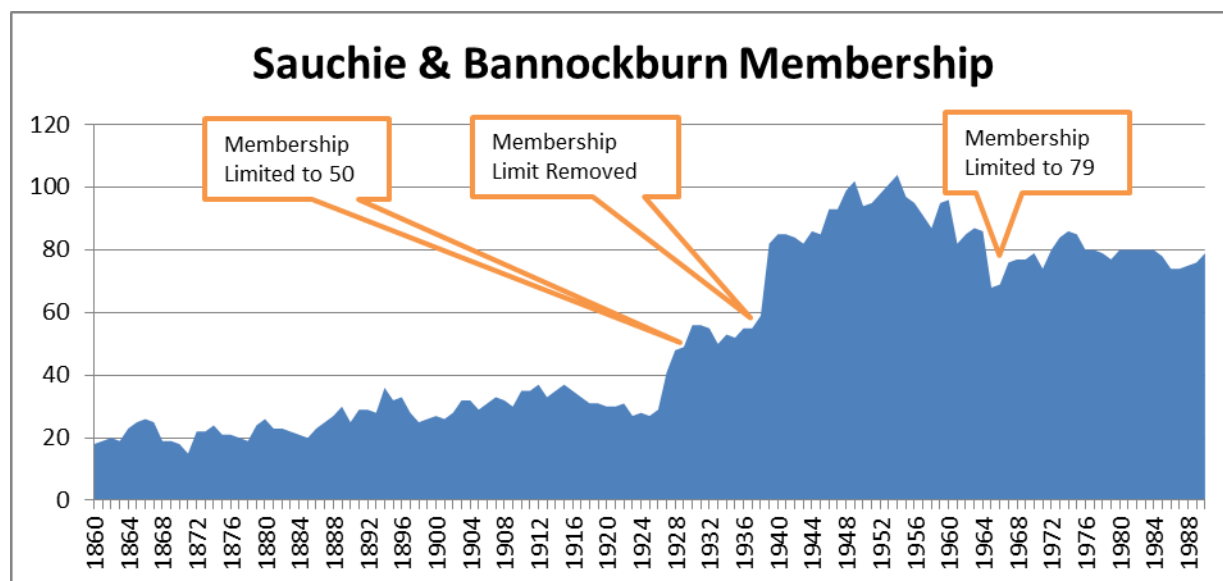


Figure 9 Annual Membership 1860 - 1990

The closure of Falkirk Ice Rink had little impact on membership and the move to Stirling created a waiting list. Ladies were still largely occasional members, with 15 or 16 represented this way out of a total of 20. Ladies only clubs seemed to be more attractive than mixed clubs to lady curlers. In season 1987/1988 there was still 81 members with no waiting list, but from there the membership has slowly declined into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 1987 Kirsty Bullions, daughter of a member became the first lady committee member. The next season saw her accept the Vice President's role before becoming the first lady President in 1989. In 1988 a second lady, Margaret Ogilvie became a committee member and from then on ladies took some part in the running of the club. In 2003 Linsey Alison became the first lady Treasurer and in 2004 Joan Anderson became the first lady Secretary. It had taken more than 30 years from the first lady member till one became an official of the club. The membership was now balanced at 75% men, 25% ladies only slightly higher than in the 1980s. The membership was also aging over this period with little young blood joining.

## Curling Society

Made Curlers, brothers of the broom, crampit and stone, share not only an enthusiasm for the sport of curling but also a recognition that their fellow curlers also share that enthusiasm and are thus worthy of support and respect whenever they meet. This common fellowship was codified by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and introduced to each club as it joined, thus ensuring that there was a common bond among all curlers. Clubs then had a duty to 'make' curlers of their members by instructing them in the ways of curling. Hence the use of curlers courts to perform this ceremony. A good measure of the health of that fellowship is the frequency with which the courts are held and the coverage of the membership who are 'made' in a club. This meant that where ever curlers had been competing in a bonspiel, they shared in refreshments during it and if a social evening afterwards, there would be good fellowship and harmony regardless of the result.

Where clubs had annual suppers, this fellowship was reinforced by inviting neighbouring clubs to send representatives and indeed to honour each other in speeches. The invitations sent out to neighbouring clubs to attend these gatherings reflected the relationship the club had with them. It is

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

no surprise that Borestone and then as Borestone and Stirling was invited to every supper. Denny Leslie Park was a regular after their first invitation in 1935 till their demise, with Denny continuing the link and Airth, Bruce Castle and Dunmore from 1950. Others fell by the wayside, either through clubs ceasing to play or member links being broken.

This fellowship explains why some clubs played each other regularly regardless of result. It was enjoyable to do so. Clubs could also have a social life away from curling and Sauchie and Bannockburn was actively organising such events. Fundraising would also reinforce this by bringing the club members together to ensure its success and also help the club promote curling.

### Curling Suppers

It is not recorded when the first annual supper or dinner was held but the Stirling Journal of the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1868 reported on one held at the Pirnhall Cottage, Bannockburn on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February. The Chairman was William Bulloch Esq of Boards, the club President, croupier William Drysdale, Craigenfelt, the club Treasurer. The croupier handed over a magnificent medal presented by John Dick Esq of Craigenfelt. The chairman proposed a bumper to Mr Dick's health which was responded to with great enthusiasm.

Subsequent records show that the supper consisted of a meal, usually beef and greens, and a drink, usually whisky provided for in the cost of the ticket. The Loyal toast was followed by others for the patrons of the club and any other worthy supporters. After which there was a social evening of stories and songs from the attendees. They would start at 7:30pm and finish after singing 'Auld Lang Syne' at any time up until around midnight. It must have been interesting walking home in the dark after the evening's refreshments. They always occurred during the curling season, with February the most frequent month chosen.

By 1886 as recorded in the club minute book, invites went out to neighbouring clubs for the first time, Larbert, Borestone and Stirling Castle were invited to send their President or representative. Also invited was the Secretary of Stirlingshire Province, Charles Harvie, the club having just won the Province medal in January of that year. Over the years, these invites reflected the ties with other clubs, e.g. Borestone were always sent an invite, from 1935 Denny Leslie Park were also included, later invites would include both Crossmyloof and Airth, Bruce Castle and Dunmore clubs.

In 1926, the minute book records more details of the ceremony. The proceedings started with the Curler's Grace, followed by the meal. There then followed the loyal toast from the Chairman. Other toasts given and responded to were 'Scotland's Ain Game o' Curling', usually a resume of the game in Scotland, later suppers would include the RCCC as well, 'Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club', usually given by someone invited along from another club and telling tales of matches with the club, 'Neighbouring Clubs' would be the response from a club member making sure to mention any clubs in attendance and after a Curlers Court, a 'Young Curlers' toast with a reply from one of the newly 'made' members. All speakers would ensure their speeches were interlaced with a few humorous stories. Indeed, the Secretary would invite speakers who could perform interesting and lively speeches to entertain the gathering and there were several favourites, one being D.D. Paterson of Denny Leslie Park club who was also an occasional member of the club. In 1935, the Commercial hotel provided Silverside of beef, Steak Pie, Potatoes, Greens, Turnip, Green Peas and pudding also one round of liquor for the inclusive sum of 4/-.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

Having John McQue of the Tartan Arms and William McNaughton the butcher as members ensured that in the late 1930s any gatherings were sumptuous affairs with almost 40 people attending suppers. Mr McQue supplied cigars gratis and Mr W McNaughton supplied Haggis and Tripe gratis in 1936.

At the supper that year, D.D. Paterson proposed a toast to 'Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club' and said how delighted he always was to meet members of the club on the ice and of the many happy games he had played with them. He then produced a Grand Caledonian Curling Club Medal which he had won at Points many years ago and said he would gladly give it to be played for each year between Denny Leslie Park and Sauchie and Bannockburn. This was heartily accepted by the chairman and three hearty cheers given to Mr Paterson for his gift. This would become the D.D. Paterson (1866) Medal competition played annually against Denny Leslie Park from 1940.

In 1939 the club had to use the Town Hall for curlers supper as numbers had grown considerably to almost 60 and 20 new members had to be initiated. Tickets were still 4/- each to include a round of liquor. J McQue consented to lend 50 chairs, the club paid for portage.

The outbreak of war and subsequent rationing put paid to these till 1947 when they resumed. In 1950, over 80 attended and representatives from 5 neighbouring clubs invited. However, there was a deficit to the club of over £6 on the night. In 1952, 70 people attended the supper including 12 invited guests. These included Mr Walter Bain, then President-Elect of RCCC and Mr Festus Moffat, O.B.E. of Falkirk Ice Rink and member of the Council of Management of RCCC. This too ran up a deficit of £7 but the President remarked that this was the price to pay for such illustrious guests. In 1960 there was a motion that ladies be debarred from attending but an amendment that they be invited won the vote. As Stirling Tractors Trophy winners and runners up were being invited to attend the Curling Supper to be presented with their prizes they could only bring their wives if they were members of a local curling club. Other social nights were being organised and the traditional supper changed over time to be more of a 'Smoking Concert' with entertainment and the club did actually arrange these as well. They were regarded as less formal than Curling Suppers although the format remained very much the same. These were used for the presentation of prizes as the club was now an indoor ice rink user and so playing its own competitions annually. The date used for the suppers moved to late March if prizes were presented at them.

In 1967, the Dinner / Dance was started as the end of season celebration with prize giving. This included a raffle which generated a large amount of funds for the club. The curling supper and curlers court continued at a less frequent interval and without the story telling and song after the speeches.

### Anniversary Dinners

The Anniversary Dinners reflected the curling culture prevalent at the time and highlight the difference between a close knit community with a few neighbours in outdoor curling and the much more ambitious and larger scale community resulting from indoor ice.

#### 50 years

On the 11<sup>th</sup> December 1907, the club held a Jubilee Dinner at the Commercial Hotel in Bannockburn. This was organised as a Curlers Supper with Curlers Court. Twenty members sat down to a meal of beef and greens (curlers fare) after which the chairman, President John Muirhead gave the toast to

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

the King, Patron of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and the Royal Family. The croupier, Vice President A.L. Wilson toasted the Imperial Forces which was replied to by Lieutenant Muirhead of the Stirlingshire Artillery. The Reverend James Allan then made a speech on 'Scotland's Ain Game o' Curling'. A Curlers Court was then held with the chairman as 'My Lord' and the croupier as 'Officer of the court' and two new members introduced. The stoup of fines was sold for 6/-. Speeches then followed, the chairman toasting the patron and patroness Mr & Mrs Steel-Maitland, replied to by member Mr Grigor. The chairman then gave the toast of Sauchie & Bannockburn Curling Club, reasoning he had the right to do so as the oldest member of the club and son of one of the founding members of the club. He then gave an early history of the club and reminiscences of old members and old matches. Neighbouring Clubs was proposed by Major Wilson and he referred to the many games the club had played in, particularly against Borestone for loads of meal and the very keen contests with Denny Greens for the J. Dick Medal. He also mentioned the game against Dundaff on Loch Coulter in 1881. The reply was by Mr William Laing, late of the Dundaff club. Other toasts were the chairman, croupier and committee. Then followed some songs by the company to end the evening.

### 100 years

For the Centenary Celebration there was a dramatic change in the organisation, effort and spend to ensure the dinner would be a resounding success. The organisation started in 1956 with a committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September, at the Secretary's house.

Recommendations from the committee regarding the Centenary Dinner in October 1957.

1. That the centenary dinner be held in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling.
2. Invitations be sent to representatives of local clubs, president and secretary of RCCC, Mr Robin Welsh, Editor of Scottish Curler, Mr Festus Moffat, Secretary of Falkirk Ice Rink and any other members of the curling world whom the committee may recommend.
3. That 2 members of the club be co-opted to act along with the committee in making arrangements & selling tickets for the function.
4. As the expenses for the celebration will be considerable, it was recommended by the treasurer that they should be defrayed from the funds of the club, which at the moment are in a flourishing condition. These expenses will be in excess of the price of the ticket.
5. An anonymous member of the club has kindly offered to defray one half of the same.
6. That NO local functions of the club be held before the centenary dinner, but that the theatre and summer outing be held as usual if decided by AGM.

At the following AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> October, in the Tartan Arms, Bannockburn there was a bit of a delay discussing the proposals. Owing to it being a good harvest night, among a lot of very bad ones, many of the members were not able to present at 7:00pm and the meeting did not start till 7:40pm as there was not a quorum. The secretary had to telephone some of the members who then arrived later and the business was proceeded with.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

There was a balance in favour of club of £66: 11s 3d and some of this would be used to fund the event. The AGM agreed to theatre and summer outings and the six recommendations were gone through and agreed. Robert Young and Alex McWattie were co-opted onto the committee to organise the event.

A special committee meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1957 to consider three locations to hold the dinner. The new 'Maitland' Hall at Milton was ruled out as having too small a kitchen and toilet for such an occasion. Estimates had been received for the Golden Lion Hotel, Station Hotel, Stirling, Gateway Restaurant and Falkirk Ice rink. Falkirk Ice Rink and the Golden Lion Hotel were both proposed and on a vote of 8 to 5, the hotel won. The Secretary had prepared a list of all speakers, visitors and local clubs that he thought should be invited. Only one member from each club would be invited. The ticket was set at 21/- each and three artistes and an accompanist would be engaged. A brochure of the history of the club was also prepared. 150 brochures were printed. By the next meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September, the arrangements were well advanced, with artistes and accompanist booked and tickets ready for distribution to committee members to sell.

On 16<sup>th</sup> October, the Centenary Dinner took place in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling in the form of a Smoking Concert. 87 curlers and friends sat down in the ballroom to a very fine dinner and toast list.

Invited guests were as follows:

- Sir John H. Muir, Bart, Blairdrummond.
- Jas. N. Dandie, Esq, ex President of Borestone & Stirling.
- Festus Moffat Esq O.B.E. Secretary of Falkirk Ice Rink.
- Robin W. Welsh Esq, Editor of Scottish Curler.
- James Hamilton Esq, Secretary of RCCC, Edinburgh.
- Walter Bain Esq, Grangemouth CC, ex-President of RCCC.
- Alex Hayes Esq Falkirk
- W.G. Piper Esq, Perth
- Frank McDonald Esq, (Breadalbane) Aberfeldy C.C.
- J.N. Hay Brown Esq, Borestone & Stirling C.C.
- Andrew Robertson Esq, Denny C.C.
- David Kennedy Esq, Denny Leslie Park C.C.
- John Pearson Esq, Airth, Bruce Castle & Dunmore CC.
- Fred W. Elder Esq, Crossmyloof C.C.
- Lester Mann Esq, Falkirk C.C.
- Walter A. Aitkenhead Esq, Laurieston & Zetland C.C.
- J.S. McLachlan Esq, Larbert C.C.
- M.W. Finlay Anderson Esq, Airthrey Castle C.C.
- J. Farquhar Esq, Tulliallan C.C.
- John Monteith Esq, ex Vice President of RCCC.

Toast List:

- Chairman, President William Muirhead, 'The Queen'.
- Mr J.N. Dandie, late President of Borestone & Stirling, 'Royal Caledonian Curling Club'.
- Sir John H. Muir, Bart, Blairdrummond, President of RCCC, reply.
- Mr Robin Welsh, Editor of Scottish Curler, 'Scotland's Ain Game o' Curling'.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

- Mr Festus Moffat, Secretary of Falkirk Ice Rink, 'Sauchie & Bannockburn Curling Club'.
- W.D. Muirhead, Secretary of the club, reply.
- John Muirhead, 'Our Guests'.
- Mr Jas. Hamilton, Secretary of the RCCC, reply.

Songs and recitations were interspersed among the speakers by Mr G C Dickson, Baritone, Mr R Clarks, Tenor, Mr W Wilson, Elocutionist, the accompanist being Mr Jas. D. Watt.

A presentation to the Secretary of the club, Mr W.D. Muirhead also took place in recognition of 31 years service to the club.

Mr Alex McWattie issued a comprehensive vote of thanks to all of the contributions that went into making the evening such a success.



Figure 10 The Organising Committee of the Centenary Dinner

Back Row, Left to Right; D. Girven, Dawson Muirhead, H. Cairns, George McInnes, Willie Hendry, J. Halley, Jimmy Muirhead, W. Bullions, A. Steel

Front Row, Left to Right; W.D. Muirhead, D. Stewart, W. Muirhead, J. Brisbane, Alex Kemp.

After the event at a committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November in the Tartan Arms, Bannockburn the Centenary Dinner accounts were squared.

65 tickets sold brought income of £68: 5s.

Expenses were:

- Golden Lion Hotel, £87: 19s 2d
- Stanley Press, Edinburgh for printing brochures and menus, £26: 17s 6d
- Secretary's outlays £11: 15s 4d
- Artistes, £4: 4s
- Photos and postages to guests £2

Grand total of £132: 16s.

Less £15 donation, leaving £49: 11s due by the club.

Many letters of congratulations were received, especially from Sir John Muir and Mr Robin Welsh.

### 150 Years

In 2007 the club celebrated 150 years as a curling club. The membership had prepared for this event for the previous two years with the Organising Committee overseeing arrangements for the celebration dinner once more in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling. The club created a new 150th pin, introduced playing kit with the club motif for the first time and arranged fundraising events to cover the cost of the event. The celebrations included a bonspiel at Stirling Ice rink with 24 teams, including our own curlers, and regular friendly opponents from outside rinks and secondly through a Gala Dinner to be attended by curlers and friends from the local Provinces, our regular opponents outside the area and distinguished guests and speakers. The Provost of Stirling City Council, Margaret Brisley, hosted a civic reception prior to the Dinner and brought a message of congratulations to the club and was a guest of Honour at the dinner. She presented a quaich, known as the Provost Quaich for the club to use in honour of the occasion.

### Curlers Court. ([The Mysteries](#))

Curlers Courts were held when there were sufficient new members to be 'made' curlers to warrant it. The first documented one in the minute book was on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1894 and held in the Commercial Hotel, Bannockburn. 5 members were initiated and 7/- was collected and given to the club. They were usually conducted after a supper, but not always as in the above example. If there were members from another club attending, they too could be 'made' at the ceremony. Courts were held for as little as two new members to over ten.

From 1926 to 1939, there were suppers and courts held nine seasons out of the possible fourteen, the only period where they were performed with great regularity. Due to the large influx of new members when the restriction of 50 members of the club was removed 25 members were initiated in 1939. In 1947, 21 curlers were made, five from other clubs, Falkirk, Airth, Carron Valley and two from Borestone. This was the first since before the start of the war in 1939 so was a catch up of the membership. In 1950, 15 members were initiated and then 18 in 1952. The members of the club performed all the ceremony up to 1952, but by 1966, experts from other clubs were invited to perform the major roles, to the extent that the club turned down a request to organise a curlers court for Stirling & District Ladies club in 1973 because they had no club experience of doing so themselves despite having one at the start of that year. The 1960 court had no 'Officer' and no fines were incurred and the initiation took place before dinner, not afterwards. For the first time, ladies were present, eight in all and three were 'made'. Curlers Courts were now organised at a local level with invites sent out to clubs seeking anyone who wanted to become a made curler to attend.

### Presentation of Prizes

In the years of outdoor curling, the curling stones given as prizes for the Points competition were handed over at the following AGM. When the trophies of the club were introduced for playing indoors, they were presented to the winners on the night initially at the ice rink, usually in the lounge area if it were open. It was agreed at the 1945 AGM that the presentation of trophies should occur on a separate night and not at a curlers supper. A Smoking Concert at the end of the season was arranged for this event. On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1946 at the Hut, Whins of Milton, the first Smoking Concert took place. The President took the chair and presented the trophies after a tea, with pies. 50 members and friends were present. There then followed songs and stories with Mr James Watt at



the piano providing accompaniment. There was a deficit of over £3 on the night but it was agreed to continue the practice. With the presentation of the Mitchell / Wilson Trophy including a speech, it was necessary for the winning skip to suitably reply. In time this speech would be reduced until no longer practiced.

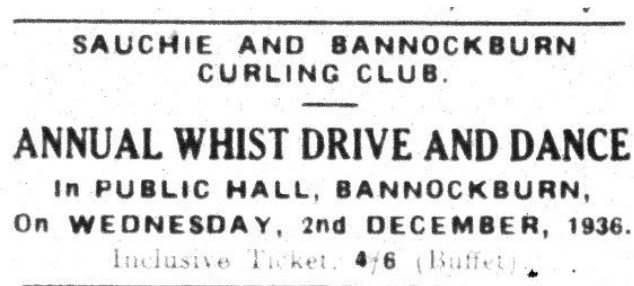
At the next Smoking Concert in 1947, the party was used to honour the Secretary W.D. Muirhead for over 20 years as service in that post. The 1950 presentation of prizes took part at a curling supper before the season had finished. It was also attended by representatives from other clubs, Borestone presented the Polmaise Trophy to the club, David Robertson Senior attended to display the new trophy he had presented for competition among local clubs. Subsequent smoking concerts and presentation of prizes were also held before the season was finished, being treated more as a substitute for curling suppers. There was a large deficit on the 1952 Smoking concert and Presentation of Prizes, with only 39 members turning up and only two more would be held

There is no record of any prize giving from 1961 up to 1965. It was again included in a curlers supper the following year. It then became a fixed part of the dinner / dances held from 1967 onwards. By now speeches were not given with the prizes. Trophies and any prize were handed out to those who attended the dinner / dance only. In 1989/90, over £115 was spent on prizes alone, 10% of all expenses. When the Dinner / Dances stopped, the awarding of trophies moved back to the AGM and a fixed prize of a club inscribed tumbler glass given to all in the winning rink.

## Fundraising and Social Club

### Whist Drives and Dances

With a balance of just over £12 reported at the AGM in 1929, it was proposed by the secretary at a subsequent committee meeting that a fund raising event be held on a recommendation by some of the younger members. This was a new experience for the club, previously only arranging curling suppers and smoking concerts. A date and time was fixed, Masonic Hall, Bannockburn on 18<sup>th</sup> December, price 2/6d a ticket. Prizes were donated by 5 committee members. A letter was circulated to all members of the club, requesting their support both financially and materially. Mrs H A Muirhead agreed to take charge of the catering arrangements along with the assistance of other members' wives. 200 tickets were printed and distributed around the committee to sell.



At a subsequent meeting after the event, it was reported that proceeds amounted to £27.17/6, while the expenditure was £3.17/6, leaving a balance of £24 for the club. This was considered an excellent result to the Club's enterprise of their first Whist Drive. A vote of thanks was given to Mr and Mrs Muirhead for their kindness in holding

meetings in their house, and the great amount of energy they had expended towards making the Whist Drive the success it was.

The club then embarked on a series of fund raising keeping to a similar date every year. It would be 1946 before as much money was added to club funds again. The club's inexperience at such events meant that results were varied. The catering was given to purveyors in future and this meant that



less money was raised. Quotes were sought from several local suppliers and best one selected. The price of tickets was set higher one year and numbers dropped off. Whist Drives were very popular methods of raising funds for clubs and there were a few clashes that caused a drop in takings. Dates were subsequently selected to avoid the worst clashes. In 1936, advertising in the local newspapers was also tried, the Stirling Observer and Stirling Journal used on several days prior to the event.

**Figure 11 Advert, 24th November 1936, Stirling Observer.**



**Figure 12 Stirling Observer 21st December 1937, Committee Members and artistes, Annual Concert, Whist Drive and Dance.**

During the war, the club used one whist drive and dance to donate £26 to the Bannockburn Spitfire Fund. The 1944 whist drive and dance donated £31 to social services in Bannockburn and Whins of Milton. These were very good results and brave of the club to stage. Owing to restrictions on petrol and foodstuff no whist drives were held in 1947 and 1948.

However the club had a haphazard method for calculating the ticket price and estimating the numbers who would attend so that takings varied. In 1950 it went spectacularly wrong leaving a deficit of over £9 to the club, mainly due to committing to 150 tickets being sold and Bannockburn Co-op engaged to supply that many meals. By this time many competing events were reducing the effectiveness of this fund raising, including the club's own curlers summer outings started in 1948.

### **Curlers Outings**

Late in the season of 1947/48, it was agreed to have a curlers outing in the summer. It was arranged for the 16<sup>th</sup> June . 3 buses left Stirling at 6:45am via Whins of Milton, Bannockburn, Larbert & Denny, meeting at Dennyloanhead for Gourock, arriving at 8:50am. The company of 105 then boarded the SS St Columba for the sail to Ardrishaig beside Lochgoilhead. Breakfast was immediately served on board, lunch at 11:45am and dinner at 3pm. The secretary said the curlers grace and everything was clear and keen. A few showers then cleared up for a beautiful day. Arrived back at Gourock at 4:30pm and spent 2.5 hours in the town leaving there at 7pm. Arrived back in Stirling at 9pm. Everyone was highly delighted with the outing and wanted to make it an annual event.

It was repeated every year except 1957 (the centenary year) up until the last one in 1962. The port and sailing route varied as did the number of buses. Attendance averaged over 80 and a small

surplus was returned every year to the club except one. They seemed to be exceptionally lucky with the weather too. In 1955, the rail strike caused the boat to be filled to capacity. However, despite over 80 people attending, it was noted only 20 actual members took part. Bus and rail trips were occasionally considered, but boat trips were always booked.

### Theatre Evenings

At the AGM of October 1951 the idea of a theatre outing and meal was brought up and agreed to for the following year. 'Oklahoma' at King's Theatre on 30<sup>th</sup> January chosen, 105 seats in stalls booked. Buses were booked along with dinner at Berisford Hotel. Ticket price was fixed at 22/6d. The Secretary prepared and had printed a circular posted to each member giving full particulars of the outing. Tickets were printed and numbered 1 to 105 at 22/6 each. The committee agreed to give bus drivers 15/- each and tips to the waitresses 30/- all. In the event, 129 tickets were sold and the club made a small bonus of over £4 on the night.

So began a series of theatre outings to both Edinburgh and Glasgow up until 1962. There was a theatre outing on the centenary year as well, it being sufficiently early in the year. Stars such as Norman Wisdom, Stanley Baxter, Jimmy Logan and Rikki Fulton performed in the shows taken in. Variety and pantomime sometimes on ice were all attended. The 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1956 trip to the King's Theatre Edinburgh to see 'Goldilocks & 3 Bears' was the most successful, with 156 people attending and over £9 being left to the club. There were spare tickets in the following years and although they were disposed of successfully the first time, subsequent outings were left with unsold tickets. By 1960 the numbers were down to 100 and a deficit of over £2 and by 1962, 79 attended. This matched the drop in attendance of the summer outings.

When W.D. Muirhead, the secretary announced at the 1962 AGM that he was no longer able to arrange all the functions of the club, the theatre and summer outings came to an end as no one else was prepared to do the work.

As a substitute for the absence of any social life in the club a basket tea, whist drive and social evening was arranged by committee in December 1963. Members' wives signed up for a table as the hostess providing the food and drink for their table. This method had been started in 1944. There were 24 tables for the whist and afterwards a concert band played while the basket tea was served. It was repeated once more in 1964. As fund raisers they were both more successful than the last of the outings.

### Dinner Dances

On the evidence of money raised for the club, the dinner dances that started in 1967 were the most successful social function ever organised. A great deal of the money raised was in raffle ticket sales and all the prizes were donated by club members, especially the committee who put a lot of effort into it. The evening started with the curlers grace by the secretary, then a meal followed by the presentation of prizes, entertainment and a dance. Jimmy Muirhead was the main organiser, being Vice President at the first one and President subsequently. His wife presented the prizes at the first two.

A variety of hotels were used, the first was King Robert Hotel at Whins of Milton, then for a long period at Station Hotel Stirling, till in 1981, it moved to the Riverways Restaurant, Stirling. The date was arranged to avoid the Stirling & District CC dinner dance as both clubs shared many lady

members and it remained a consideration with future dinner dances. The ladies provided a cabaret act with humorous songs, sketches and dances in the interval of the dancing from 1976 to 1980, which was greatly appreciated by all, even if they were mocking their husbands in the club. The club went back to the King Robert Hotel in 1982 and it was so impressed by the service returned the following year. However, the experience was not repeated and the Riverways returned to Jimmy Muirhead retired from Dance Convener in 1987. The funds of the club were secure thanks to his efforts and the generosity of the members and friends who donated and bought raffle tickets at these night which left over £400 in the bank.

### **Club Administration**

As can be seen from the membership list reported in 1860, the club had adopted the standard template for curling club organisations within the RCCC. There was a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as the chief officials. The President's post was ceremonial as well as providing leadership. The Secretary was the organising force within the club, arranging games, meetings and other necessary activities for a functioning club. This work was supported by a Committee of Management. This consisted of four or five appointed members initially, rising to the six maintained by the club from 1874. They were re-appointed each year at the AGM. At the 1883 AGM it was agreed that the two members of committee longest in office should retire annually from the committee and two new members be appointed in their place. This led to the spreading of the responsibilities across the membership and enlarged the pool of potential officials. It was written into the constitution in the rewrite of 1903. Where necessary, sub-committees were formed to attend to a particular cause. The Whist Drive and Dance fund raising efforts were a good example. A Pond Committee was recognised in 1867 as part of the club resolutions. This would remain in place until the Wauk Mill pond was finally abandoned at the AGM of 1954. This was a very important function of the club before local ice rinks were available and took the most time, effort and expense within the club. Usually consisting of three people, it regularly called in further expertise and man power to resolve the many issues with the pond. In 1881 it was temporarily increased to five to help with all the issues at Wauk Mill and was left at four for several years after that before reverting back to three.

Representative Members were charged with attending any external meetings and reporting back to the club. They would vote on any decisions that would impact the club at these meetings. As a long standing member of Stirlingshire Province these meetings were the most frequented, although RCCC meetings were also attended. When the club became shareholders in ice rinks, there were meetings that required some attendance as well.

All these posts were elected and members served for two years at least in that position as directed in the constitution of the time. Most members did their allotted time and passed on the responsibility around the club. There are many examples of long and beneficial service to the club.

### **Influential Servants of the Club**

William Muirhead, Vice-President from 1868 till his death in 1893 took an active part in the transformation of the club from Sauchie and Canglour to Sauchie and Bannockburn. It was he who had seen both Sir Alexander Gibson Maitland and his Factor, Mr Fernie, in regard to the question of the club pond rent and he secured their assurance that no rent would be asked from the club for the pond. This was a significant saving for the club at the time. He also obtained authorisation from Sir



Figure 13 John Muirhead

Alexander to remove the old office from the Catcraig Quarry for the purpose of rebuilding it at the pond for the use of the club. With Colonel Wilson as the President absent from meetings, it was William Muirhead's active presence that drove the club forward.

Colonel A. Wilson, President from 1872 to 1895. He took the club to the new pond at Wauk Mill and ensured it was a success by providing extra funds to help pay off the debts taken on to set it up. One of the senior skips of the club, he played in all major competitions. He was also President of Stirlingshire Province from 1886 to 1900.

John Muirhead, President from 1907 to 1933. A skip of the club for many years, he was also treasurer for 10 years, then President for 26 years, assumed office in the Jubilee year and passed away while still in office. He was the son of one of the founding members of the club and a member of the club for 60 years.



Figure 14 W.D. Muirhead

W.D. Muirhead, Secretary from 1926 to 1965, President from 1948 to 1953. He arranged all the social activities of the club from Theatre Outings, Summer Outings, Smoking Concerts and Annual Suppers enjoyed by many people both in and outside the club. He also took part in many of these, volunteering food, and money as well as service. He was also a skip of the club being first elected in 1930 and took part in most of the indoor competitions which involved travelling to Edinburgh or Glasgow at that time. As Secretary, he booked ice at Crossmyloof for season 1931/32 to allow members to play regularly and experience indoor playing. This was an initiative he took himself for several years before the club adopted the approach. He attended many functions as a representative of the club bringing his great knowledge of the game. He was a committee member, including Vice President of Stirlingshire

Province from 1951 to 1965, was elected senior Vice President of the RCCC in recognition of his contribution to curling. He was an umpire for the British Open curling championship at Falkirk for several years. His recording of the activities of the club in the minutes are by far the most comprehensive of any Secretary of the club and give great insight on the people and their achievements.

J. Halley, Treasurer from 1953 to 1968. He modernised the financial reporting at the club's AGMs by reproducing the yearly statement for distribution with the AGM minutes and invitation circular. He also arranged for many of the notices for club functions to be typed up and printed for distribution.

A. McWattie, President, Secretary from 1965 to 1981. He took over from W.D. Muirhead as secretary and continued to drive the club forward. He was a skip that took part in the most successful period for the club, had several personal successes in the British Open and reorganised the Corrieri Cup into the club's biggest competition.

### Club Finances

There are no financial records available for the club until the very recent past. What information is available is within the minute books as comments within committee meetings or as a statement from the Treasurer recorded in the minutes of AGMs.

From the data available it is possible to present a picture of how well the club was doing on an annual basis by comparing the money held by the club divided by the amount of subscription charged multiplied by the membership. How much over or under breakeven gives an indication of how well the club is raising funds or how much in debt the club has fallen.

As has already been stated, the move to Wauk Mill was a big financial undertaking for the club that left them in debt from 1873 through to 1891 when it was eventually paid off. Some of the repayment was donated by patrons or members such as Mr J. Dick and Colonel Wilson, then President of the club. The rest the club had to raise itself and this was reflected in how long it took to repay. On the whole, raising entrance money to join the club had little effect as this deterred new members, it was the raising of the yearly subscriptions that finally cleared the debt. The club then reduced the subscriptions back to what they had been previously, which was 2/6d, where it remained until 1942, with two exceptions, for the pond repairs required in 1899 it was raised and during the Great War it went down.

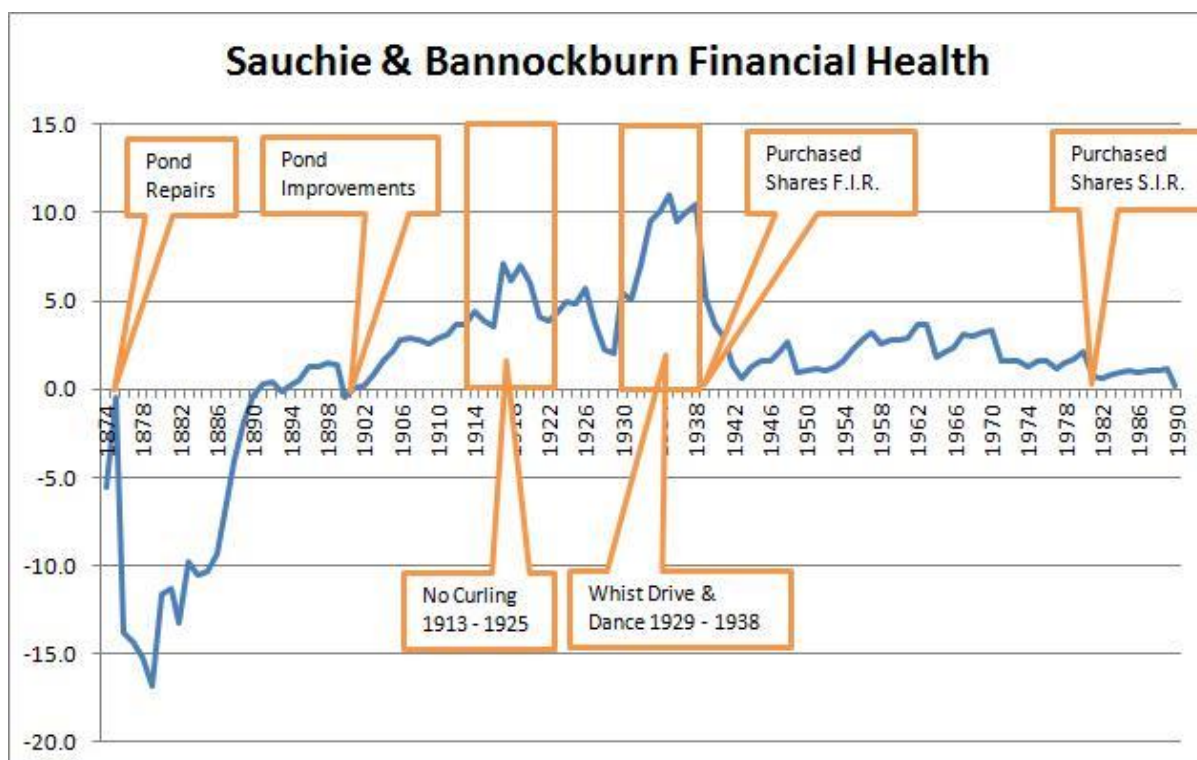


Figure 15 Financial Health of the Club

The period from 1913 to 1925 saw no curling and so funds grew during the idle time. When curling again resumed, the fund raising carried out between 1929 and 1938 with Whist Drive and Dance evenings, proved the most successful.



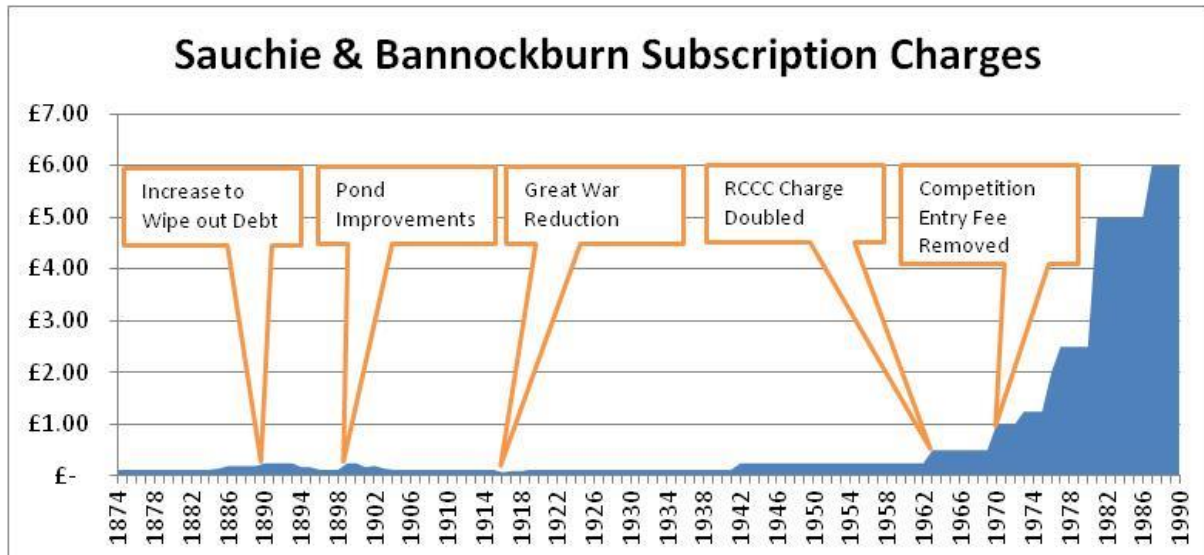


Figure 16 Annual Subscription Charges

With the advent of indoor curling, prizes to be bought and trophies to be maintained, the subscription was raised. The huge increase in membership meant that fund raising had to be even more successful to make an impact but could not keep pace, even with the introduction of theatre and summer outings and several events resulted in significant losses. This was especially true of the centenary celebrations which caused a big drop in funds.

Other key factors for subscriptions were the rise in RCCC fees and eventually the decision to remove the entry fee to all club competitions but still provide prizes for winners. The success of the dinner dances held at the end of the season from 1967 onwards contributed to the financial health of the club and kept the funds healthy. It enabled the club to buy £400 shares in the new Stirling Ice Rink.

Inflation was the main reason for the steep rise in the 1970's after the many years of stable subscriptions.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

No. of CERTIFICATE 177 No. of Shares 1

**STIRLING ICE RINK COMPANY LIMITED**  
(INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 to 1970)

**SHARE CAPITAL - - £300,000**  
DIVIDED INTO 1,500 ORDINARY SHARES OF £200 EACH

**ORDINARY SHARE CERTIFICATE**

This is to Certify that A. S. Morrison and A. S. Wallace as Trustees for Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club of 2 Benthams Avenue, Stirling is the Registered Proprietor of One Ordinary Share of £200 each numbered 355 to - in the capital of the Company subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and that there has been paid up in respect of each of such shares the sum of £50

Given under the Common Seal of the Company this Twenty second day of January one thousand nine hundred and seventy nine

Transfer No. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE - No transfer of any of the above shares will be registered without the production of this certificate.

Date	No. of Call	Amount of Call per Share	Amount	Amount paid per Share	Signature of Secretary Registered
<u>28th February, 1979</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>£50</u>	<u>£50</u>	<u>£100</u>	<u>James Moffat Wilson</u>
<u>3rd May 1979</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>£50</u>	<u>£50</u>	<u>£150</u>	<u>James Moffat Wilson</u>
<u>31st August 1979</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>£50</u>	<u>£50</u>	<u>£200</u>	<u>James Moffat Wilson</u>

Figure 17 Stirling Ice Rink Share Certificate 177 owned by club

### Making up Rinks

Skips are very important within a curling club. They provide the leadership and experience the club requires for success on the ice. There were several methods used to elect skips within the club and also their teams. At all times the club committee and membership has tried to balance success in competitions with enabling everyone to gain the necessary experience to develop as curlers. Where this has not been successful, members have not been slow to raise their voices.

In 1869/70 season, the skips for every competition were chosen at the AGM, with different skips required from those who competed for the J Dick medal the previous year.

By 1880, the management committee were empowered to appoint skips who would act during the season. After some discussion the committee were instructed to ask the skips that they may appoint to meet and divide the members into rinks and each skip as far as possible to keep the rinks as chosen.

This changed at the 1882 AGM, where it was agreed to choose skips as each game came to be played. If people turned up, they might get the chance to skip. It is not recorded who played against Balfour, but the three skips of previous years, Colonel Wilson, John Muirhead and John Laing skipped the other two matches that season. They were again elected the following year and in 1886, skipped the first win for the club at the Stirlingshire Province bonspiel.

In 1888 six skips were proposed and three chosen by ballot and this increased to five skips selected in 1892 and five again being balloted this time in 1894. It returned to three skips by ballot in 1898. At the 1901 AGM a motion by Mr Adam, himself briefly a skip, that J. Muirhead, W. Wilson and P. Muirhead be appointed skips was agreed. This was repeated the following years.

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

In 1907, the committee added an extra skip for the Grand Match, the Reverend James Allan, along with John Muirhead. With the gradual increase in membership, this was increased to 4 in 1926 and then six in 1929 after two more names had been proposed at the AGM. It was also agreed at this meeting after a vote, that the skips would pick the rink themselves after a motion was presented to ballot for thirds. At the 1930 AGM the President, John Muirhead, moved that owing to the large membership of the club, seven or eight skips should be elected by ballot. It was agreed to have eight skips. It was further moved that the three senior skips be re-elected without ballot and so five additional skips were balloted for.

Not all those proposed for a skip accept the offer, in 1931 John Oswald respectfully declined, but after the death of the President and senior skip, John Muirhead in 1933, he was proposed again and accepted. The role of skips was now ordered by seniority in the minutes.

With the advent of indoor curling becoming more frequent, at the AGM the list of eight skips was agreed and then skips drawn for all the external competitions. This was a key part of the AGM up till 1956, when it was left to committee to draw skips.

The list of skips was now essentially fixed, with them regularly being re-elected en bloc each year. Only once were all the skips re-elected, in 1942 nine names were proposed and seconded, with one dropping out to leave the eight required skips. The list of skips was now maintained, with replacements sought when required. If more people were nominated than there were positions, voting took place by ballot and the highest votes given places.

At the 1936 AGM, a motion that skips appoint their own rink as agreed in 1929 was voted out by 9 votes to 10 in favour of all members being balloted for matches and those left out, be drawn for the next match, the skips still to place their own men from the draw.

This was also the period when the Secretary was booking club ice at Crossmyloof ice rink and then at Falkirk when it opened for members to gain experience on indoor ice. Rinks were being made up by the members themselves skipped by several from outside the club list. Each skip still had to procure their own players so that as many members as possible get a game.

With the inauguration of the club's first indoor trophy, the Mitchell Wilson Trophy in 1939, full rinks were drawn up by committee and then drawn to play in the competition. In 1944 with the addition of the David Miller Cup, the formation of club rinks became a large part of the committee workload. In 1945, the D.D. Paterson (1866) Medal match against Denny Leslie Park was organised this way, but the following years only third players were drawn. Over time, more matches had players drawn, and it was left to skips to notify their selected players of the date and time of matches. By 1958, the Secretary had specially printed post cards that he used to send out to all members to notify them of matches where they had been selected to play. It was also being recorded that the committee was taking over two hours to complete all these draws. With W.D. Muirhead retiring as secretary in 1965, the skips were once again notified which members were playing in competitions and they had responsibility to notify them that they were playing.

For several years, it had been suggested that skips look to pick young curlers in their teams to give them experience. In 1960, the club took the bold move of having a Young Curlers Match, with four rinks a side, made up of young curlers, with skips to advise only but not play. It was a great success



## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

according to the feedback from the participants themselves as recorded in the minutes. The following year, a trophy, the Corrieri Cup was given and allocated to the tournament and it remained this way till 1966.

With the growth of the membership and more club competitions, several experienced players were called on to skip additional rinks in competitions. These players were regularly thirds when playing with the club skips and so this presented an opportunity for them to progress. It was difficult for them to win any competitions against the regular skips, their best opportunities being in bonspiels like the David Miller Cup.

In 1971/72 season for the Corrieri Cup, the Third was mandated to skip at least one game without the skip of the rink playing at all if possible to further their experience.

Then in 1973 a pool of reserve skips was also appointed, six members being named and approved. This was suggested by the secretary as the club had three competitions in which twelve rinks took part and more skips were necessary to cover them. This pool was used to replace any skips resigning from the main list and so a steady stream of new skips was created. The reserve pool even became listed by seniority in the minutes and subject to ballots when more names were proposed than were places as in 1975. In 1981 the reserve pool of skips was extended to seven. Ill health of several skips led to the committee being given powers to appoint two more reserve skips in 1982. By the following year, the reserve skips were back to six.

A vote at the 1986 AGM confirmed that skips and third players had to play as drawn, but seconds and leads could play in any order.

There is only one recorded incident of any discord amongst the members. On 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 1970, a committee meeting considered a letter from member Mr A.R. Combe regarding an incident which occurred during a Corrieri Cup match earlier in the month, between rinks skipped by Messrs R. Armstrong and J. Crawford. In the letter, Mr Combe alleged that Mr Crawford had used physical violence against Mr Armstrong and called for the withdrawal of his membership. Mr Armstrong had also complained to the Secretary after the game that he had been pushed violently in the back by Mr Crawford while standing in the 'house' directing his players and he had almost fallen. After a long discussion the Secretary was instructed to write to both Mr Combe and Mr Armstrong for a report on the incident when they would consider the matter further. However, despite Mr Armstrong replying, Mr Combe did not and so he being the original complainant the matter was dropped.



Figure 18 Club Badge

### Club Badge

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 1971, the committee agreed to a badge design for the club from Emslie Engraving Co., Edinburgh, and 200 badges were ordered at a cost of £10.75 for the die and £33 for the badges. They were put on sale in season 1971/72 priced at 25p and £15 was taken in from their sale that season. A special version was created to

celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Clubs continue to swap badges when playing at Grand Matches for example.

## **Curlers' Church Service**

On the Sunday evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1936 at St Ninians United Free Church, Borestone Place, St Ninians, the club chaplain, Rev. Murdoch Luke conducted a special curlers service. As reported in the minutes by the Secretary, W.D. Muirhead, 'The church was well filled with curlers and their friends and the chaplain preached a very appropriate service which was appreciated by all present. This is the first service that is known to have been preached to curlers in this district.'

## **Participation in the Curling Community**

There are mentions in the minutes of invites to other clubs annual curling suppers and dinners and members have attended many neighbouring clubs, such as Denny, Denny Leslie Park, Borestone, Stirling as guests and speakers.

## **Provinces**

There are no records of what the club contributed to the Monteith Province, but the Stirlingshire Province minutes clearly show that the club was represented in its formation even though the club was not elected as a member of the new club in 1870. From 1877, William Muirhead acted as Umpire for the Province bonspiels until the club joined in 1881. The club was an active participant and always paid its subscriptions. The representatives elected by the club attended most of the annual general meetings. Members of the club were recognised by their peers by being elected to become officials of the Province. Colonel Wilson was President of the Province from 1886 to. Alex Kemp was the auditor for many years and stepped in as Secretary and Treasurer between 1923 to 1925 to allow the Province time to find a successor. W.D. Muirhead was Vice President of Stirlingshire Province from 1951 to 1965 and was followed by Alex McWattie in the 1970s, being President from 1974 to 1976, then auditor until 1983.

## **Royal Caledonian Curling Club**

Since joining the R.C.C.C. in 1860, the club has remained a paid up member and received a medal for its 150 years of membership from the R.C.C.C. in 2010. In recognition of his contribution to the Curling community W.D. Muirhead, was elected senior Vice President by the membership.

## **Summary**

The club was a reflection of the values held by the club members at the time as represented in their subsequent actions over the period reviewed. Curling society was more deeply experienced in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with outdoor curling but was eroded over time with the move to indoor ice and the huge surge in participation that resulted. Practices such as curlers' suppers and making curlers with curlers' courts were reduced and eventually abandoned towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Any club is only as good as its members and several people were influential in the development of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club. It took great belief to take up loans to create a curling home and then successfully pay it off even if it took nearly twenty years to do so. Vice President William Muirhead was the key driver of this effort. The club membership's reluctance to give up that home in the 1950s was understandable given this history. The outstanding person must be W.D. Muirhead, Secretary for 26 years, who took the club from outdoor curling to indoor and built the foundations for the successes to follow him in the 1960s and 1970s. With the introduction of club trophies for various competitions prize giving became a major part of the club's activities both in collecting entry

## History of Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club

fees and in providing prizes over and above the trophy itself. The committees over time, although changing, all appeared committed to providing worthwhile prizes giving donations themselves to ensure this. This made the presentation of prizes an important function and several different methods were tried, including on the ice, but the most successful was on a special night, either a supper or the dinner dance in the 1960s to 1990s.

The club made an impact socially in Bannockburn and the surrounding area with the introduction of curlers outings in 1948 and the arrangements included transport and meals for the day. Many people outside the club enjoyed these opportunities. In the summer trips were taken every year 'doon the watter' of the Clyde aboard a steamer. In the winter, theatre outings were also arranged, to either Glasgow or Edinburgh. These continued till 1962 when the then Secretary indicated he was no longer able to organise them. Fund raising has always been a requirement of any club and from 1929 to 1950 when a series of Whist Drive and Dances were held in various halls around Bannockburn. The club even donated money from these to local causes, including the Bannockburn Spitfire Fund during the war. Latterly, the annual dinner dance became the most important fund raising event with club members donating the prizes for raffles.

The most important role of a curling club is giving all its members the opportunity to play. When it was a small club with twenty members and its own pond, this was simple to achieve. The move to indoor ice and the huge growth in membership turned this into a major task for the committee to draw up skips and rinks. At AGMs, members pressed for opportunities to play, including young curlers and events such as young curlers matches were tried along with the drawing of all rinks for club competitions. The management of skips also grew with the membership, there being a list of regular and reserve skips, all ordered by seniority to ensure the club could successfully fulfil all its playing obligations. The ability to provide adequate curling for all helped maintain club member numbers and many also played in ice rink competitions like the British Open and were successful.

## References

Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club Minutes 1867 – 1990

Stirling Journal, Stirling Observer, Bridge of Allan Reporter, the Scotsman, Falkirk Herald, Caledonian Mercury, Glasgow Herald newspaper reports 1857 - 1957.

Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brochure.

Royal Caledonian Curling Club Annuals, 1860 to 1889, 1922 to 1980.

[History of Curling by John Kerr M.A. F.S.A. SCOT](#)

Scotland Census 1851, 1861, 1871, St Ninians Parish.

[Historical Curling Places](#) website.

Sauchie and Bannockburn Curling Club Second Medal and other Trophies.

GB234/GD193/1018 Papers of the Steel Maitland family, National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Stirlingshire Province Curling Club minutes 1870 to 1990