

President's Report 2011 - 2012

Our gloriously noisy summer get-together was here in Drumlanrig Café in July. After a lovely dinner, the word – game entertainment displayed a range of skill and concentration levels (a bit like the curling really) and some of us kept playing for the opposition. Amid the hilarity we spared a thought for Rosemary Maxwell, whose brave endurance of her illness was waning and a few days later the inevitable news was recorded. Rosemary was first president of Nithsdale Ladies, a leader, an example. We marvelled at her energy, enthusiasm and unerring ability to remember everything we had told her before (no matter how long). She was just interested – in the best possible way. Rosemary was a graceful curler but never fiercely competitive she was more focused on making an enjoyable and inclusive game for everyone and she will be remembered with much affection and respect.

Also fondly remembered by many of us, Anne Currie passed away in September. Anne was a keen and accomplished curler who regularly represented our club in outside competitions during the course of many happy playing years. But no matter how much effort she put into a game she never seemed to have even one hair out of place. She certainly was a Nithsdale LADY. A standard that some of us will never attain!

As our season swung into action with in the Coshogle Salver Opening Bonspiel we were delighted to welcome Maureen Woods and Rosie Lee to their first game as club members and grateful to Linda McKie for substituting. The Ice Bowl caterers did us proud and a happy, noisy start to the season saw Lesley as the victorious skip with Alison, Janette Maxwell and Rosemary Dickie.

As the Kirkpatrick Cup, our club league, commenced we welcomed Sheila Glendinning (substituting in this competition) and Avril Marriott (who, incidentally, was a pupil of Rosemary Maxwell.) to their first club games. It was

a winning start and the trend continued as Mima, Janette Anderson, Avril and Margaret recorded a clean sweep.

Meanwhile the Lyall proceeded apace and the final between the rinks skipped by Janette Maxwell and Caroline was played on schedule in November. It was Caroline's night and her rink of Anne, Janette Anderson and Margaret will be 'medalled'. Tea upstairs was a nice celebration and consolation.

In the New Year we played pairs on Thursday afternoons. This seemed to suit well and in the last of several good, close games Mima and Janette Anderson managed to hold the reigning champions to a draw to ensure that there will be new names on the trophy this year.

The Pegasus also started in January and after three very close games Anne was on four points with Janette Anderson and Lesley inseparable in second place. After much consultation, plan 'A' was to have a draw shot challenge squeezed into the last Kirkpatrick game slot. The timing worked out perfectly to allow this drama to unfold and Lesley kept her nerve with a beautiful draw that clinched her team's place in the final. A good close contest ensued with Anne, Nancy, Elma and Mima edging a win and then we were eating 'upstairs' again.

The President against Vice President (just one this year) was played in rotational position format and we witnessed some outstanding shot-making especially from Caroline and Lorna in their turn in skip position. Unfortunately the president could not reach this high standard and the result was a resounding win for Nancy, Lesley, Caroline and Margaret.

The Funspiel too was in rotational position format and after two close games it was Caroline and her rink of Lesley, Nancy and Lorna who triumphed and will lift the McNay Quaich.

Club friendlies were interspersed throughout the season.

We played mixed teams with Morton in November at Lockerbie and enjoyed a sociable game and supper.

New Cumnock ladies game, however, was a logistical nightmare. They were due to come to Dumfries for the first time – but when? Eventually, after several false starts, we settled for Saturday 14th of January. With several of our players unavailable we were very grateful to Sheala Nixon for stepping in and over the four 4end games we were comfortably victorious. Although our guests could not fit a meal into their busy social diary we shared some snacks and social banter and were invited to go back up to Ayr before Christmas!

Our annual ‘friendly’ against Sanquhar men was on 16th February. Two rinks aside had been reinstated and although we failed to win the Dalglish Quaich we did have an enjoyable evening with food by the Ice Bowl caterers going down well.

The Monday Night League games were challenging, the Lockerbie Ladies League games were even more challenging – thanks to Margaret Laurie for substituting in one of these games.

The Morton Mixed took its usual format and Brenda and Lorna were winners with Andrew Morton and David Watret. Thanks due to Sheala Nixon and Jane Hogg for substituting in other rinks in December.

The Christmas Bonspiel was again kindly sponsored by Knockenhair Caterers but was at Dumfries for the first time. As the change of venue had been our proposal, it was a relief that everything went smoothly. Sanquhar reigned supreme and we were runners-up.

We entered two rinks in the Barbours Bonspiel and both won their morning games but Sheila skipped Nancy, Alison and Margaret to outright victory after lunch – another good day!

Dumfries Ladies President's Bonspiel was a very enjoyable, sociable day. Our two rinks – Nancy, Lesley, Alison and Margaret – Mima, Madge Rorrison, Janette Maxwell and Rosie -both won their first two games before succumbing to their respective section winners.

Earlier in the season we 'made up the numbers' in the Henderson Bishop playdowns and succumbed to some much, much younger opposition.

Meanwhile our junior member Heather competed in the teenage rink that won the right to be the first representatives of Dumfries in the National Finals of this competition. At Inverness last month they competed hard and were very unlucky not to make latter stages. They did us proud!

Also earlier in the season, our club entry in the Lockerbie President's Day – Mima, Brenda, Avril and Margaret were top of their section after two games before being trumped by an Olympian substitute in the final game but Sheila and Anne were in the DIBCA rink which won the other section.

Now, speaking of DIBCA, Brenda was so close to winning the Fun League but was just pipped at the last game and Anne and her partner were runners-up in the pairs.

Anne, Nancy, Maureen, Sheila and Mima all took part as 'The Ladies' in the Lions weekend competition. After qualifying for the high road and meeting a former Scottish champion we were relieved to only lose 8 shots in the whole game while our Curling Development Officer lost an 8 at one end in the adjacent rink. It was a fun weekend.

Out with Club and Ladies Section – Nancy and Anne were in the winning rink of the Janet McMillan Trophy at Stranraer early in the season. Sheila skipped her rink to victory in the Over Fifties League Competition run by the Ice Bowl and Lorna and Mima are the 'front-end' of the winning rink of the

Dumfriesshire Rural playdowns and will go forward to the National Finals on Monday.

Mima also attended a coaching course this session and, by the way, Avril is already a 'Level A' coach.

So it has been a busy but fairly smooth running season. Our ice allocation was very close to what we requested and good travelling conditions allowed us to run to schedule.

The Ice Bowl caterers have been very accommodating and given us good value for money in our regular indulgencies.

Our new members have been a great boost to the club and I think we have Anne Templeton to thank for her 'hands on' involvement in DIBCA making us more integrated and appealing and as Anne retires we wish Maureen 'all the best' as she takes up the DIBCA Ladies Section reigns.

Finally, thanks to everyone for the co-operation which has made this job relatively straight forward and special thanks to Christine who has been brilliant.