

Moray Province & The Olympics 2014

Sochi Russia



The winter Olympics comes round every four years but the 2014 Olympia is extra special for THE MORAY PROVINCE in as much as the representation at these games by members of The Moray Province supersedes anything that has gone before and because it is such a pinnacle of excellence it maybe a long time before the like is seen again.

Why you may ask is it so special, I will list the names and what their involvement is and then make a reference to each of the participants. (In Alpha Order)

Alan Durno: - President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

Gregor Ewan: - Plays Third for the British Wheelchair curling team.

Harold Forrester: - Chief Timer

Alan Stanfield: - Chief Umpire

The above would make a great team on their own however not this year as they have all their individual duties to carry out.

Alan Durno: - Alan Durno President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club



Alan is a well kent curler and farmer from Cuttlebrae Farm, Clochan, East of Fochabers.

Alan wisnae born in Moray Province but he was nominated and adopted to Moray 58 years ago on moving here from Insch in Aberdeenshire at just 5 weeks of age and the story goes he was on the bottle then and it's a known fact he still likes a dram.

Alan went to Agriculture College in Aberdeen and then came home to work on the family farm until Neil his eldest son was old enough to take care of Cuttlebrae which allowed Alan to take on the serious side of life: - "Manchester United" and curling anywhere there was a bonspiel and some craic.

During Alan's Presidency he has plenty back up at home. Susan (nee Johnston) who he married in 1977 leads the team of two sons Neil the auldest and Gregor the loon and fit a fine job Susan maks of the ferm, which is just as well as Neil is following in his father's footsteps as far as football and curling are concerned (watch this space).

Enough about hame fit about his curling experience and prowess on the ice.

Indoor curling for Allan started in Aviemore when Fochabers, his mother club which he joined 40 years ago, curled at Aviemore in the Grampian Province. This entailed 110 miles round trips in all weathers, however oddly enough the weather was aye worse on the way home than on the way to the game. It was never recorded that Fochabers were ever late for a game in Aviemore however it was aye difficult to get home in fact sometimes they just couldnie mak it so it was many a time that it was the denner that was ready when he did get home.

As the years went on access to curling got easier firstly when the rink opened in Inverness 94 miles R.T. along the coast road and then even closer when the rink opened in Elgin just 18 miles R.T., so things have improved at home, he is aye at hame for breakfast.

To improve the recorded history of our esteemed friend Alan he has done his apprenticeship for the post of President of the Royal Club in many ways and to be fair there were no short cuts for him he truly deserves the honour of the post he is now in.

He was president of his mother club Fochabers, President of Moray Province and served for 4 years on Area 10, two as the Junior Representative and two as the Senior Representative to the Royal Club. During these 4 years serving on The Area Standing Committee of the RCCC he was Competitions Convenor for the last 3 an onerous task in itself.

Nearer home he is on the committee of the Highland Week of International Curling held annually for the past 46 years firstly in Aviemore but now in Inverness.

Alan is still a formidable opponent on the ice playing in Elgin on a regular basis i.e. Monday Tuesday Wednesday with the other days in rinks around the country.

To sum it up Alan has been there and done that including the two major curling events we would all want to do, he played in the last Grand Match on the Lake of Menteith in 1979 and was a member of the Strathcona Cup winning team which toured Canada in 2003, and now to top it off The Winter Olympics In Sochi Russia.

Congratulations to you Alan we wish you all success and may your Presidency continue to be "Keen and Clear".

Gregor Ewan: - Plays Third for the British Wheelchair curling team.



Gregor is our only playing representative and it is through hard work and dedication that he has managed to reach the pinnacle of his curling career.

Although Gregor looks older than his 42 years and acts younger, he is the life and soul of the party, always has a joke and a story even when he really feels cold and miserable after a couple of hours on the ice pad.

Gregor is obviously a very competent curler although the road to the top of his game has not been easy. Gregor was never involved as a standee curler; he took up the sport around 8 years ago in a wheelchair following a spinal injury. He was a founder member of the Elgin Wheelchair curling Club and has gone onwards and upwards from there.

Gregor had to go through all the rigours of becoming an athlete which of course included hours of practice on the ice and in the gym. He followed a schedule that would put you off the idea just reading what was required of you over given periods and was assessed on a regular basis.

These wheelchair guys and girls are not known for resting on their laurels, in 2009 the first year after he started curling he was playing for Scotland. That was his first taste of the international scene and he became addicted to success and worked very hard at the sport from then.

Coming from Moray was no advantage to Gregor in as much as all the Wheelchair competitions were held in the central belt and so involved a lot of travelling. As his prowess at the sport improved and he got involved on a regular basis with the Scotland and British teams he was spending more time travelling than on the ice but that did not stop him progressing. As part of the squad winning Silver in the World championships 2011, he played in Korea in 2012 and has already played in Sochi. Also in 2012 he was in the winning rink in the Scottish Wheelchair Championships after being runner up the previous two years.

Gregor has received many accolades on the way to 2014 Olympics and we all wish him every success when he flies out to the Winter Paralympics on March 3rd. **Good Curling Gregor**

Harold Forrester: - Chief Timer.



Harold is the first of two members of Nairn Curling Club I will make reference to in this "**Moray Province Olympic Special**"

Harold has been a member of the Nairn CC since 1966 was club President from 1978 to 1980 and was awarded Honorary Membership in 2007

Harold is a very popular active member of the Nairn club and a competent curler to boot. He was a regular winner as a team member and skip in his own right of many club, Province and Area Ten competitions with one of his highlights being a member of the late Eric Browns highly competitive rink which included winning the RCCC Rinks Championship in the early seventies.

Harold was a Chemist to profession which probably accounts for his addiction to perfection in whatever he does. If you want something done and want it done right Harold is your man and he does not just dip his toe in the water he takes on projects where others fear to tread,

Harold holds the recipe for Nairn's curlers brew and has been relied upon to be the top table photographer for many years at the Nairn's Annual Curlers Court (and still manages a dram) he took on the clubs web site over the past five years (<https://sites.google.com/site/curlnairn/>) and was the leading member of a group responsible for compiling "History of Nairn Curling Club" which is now archived on the club web site.

Around the same time he started taking an interest in and getting involved with the researching and developing of the web site "Map of outdoor curling ponds in Scotland" with Lindsay Scotland <http://www.historicalcurlingplaces.org/> which was led by Sheriff David Smith.

Along with the above commitments and regularly curling Harold started to take an interest in Umpiring and Time Keeping in 2008. Harold went through the training for both aspects and became qualified for both and has been involved since then.

Harold has officiated as chief umpire or chief time keeper since 2008 at many home and International competitions, including World Mixed Doubles, FISU University Games, European Championships, Scottish Junior Championships, World Junior Championships and now Harold will be **Chief Timer at Olympic Games in Sochi 2014**

Harold serves on the on the RCCC Umpiring Committee and was also very involved with the World Curling Federation in the Development of Curling software "Curltime" which is now used for all the WCF Championships.

Congratulations on your appointment as Chief Timer Harold your commitment and hard work is now being rewarded but in saying that I hope your alarm clock does not let you down on any morning.

Alan Stanfield: - Chief Umpire



Dr Alan is a fairly young curler relative that is to his advancing years. He came to Nairn in the mid eighties and arrived with his wee doctor's bag but also with a big bag of golf clubs. Alan was an excellent golfer with a handicap and enthusiasm to match (basically the same as he has for curling now).

However the first winter came along and a colleague doctor at the Lodgehill Medical Practice in Nairn persuaded him to try curling and on that very day he was caught hook line and sinker, so much so that the golf clubs were left in the cupboard and have been there ever since.

He joined Nairn Curling Club in 1986 (Relatively young curler 28 years ago.) Alan took to curling with great enthusiasm and became a proficient curler and administrator both at club level and within Moray Province.

Alan in Nairn CC was a very active member and was Club President from 1992 to 1994 when Alan updated the Club Constitution and rules a very onerous job with so many pedantic members within the club.

On the curling front both at club and Province level Alan's progress was very notable in as much as he was a regular on the prize list at both levels winning many competitions and I think it can be safely recorded he won at some time or other all the competitions going except the **Ladies K.O.**

Moray Province 1999 to 2003

Alan was elected Vice President to Alan Durno in 1999 and served 4 years on the Executive (Alan's new title for the High Heed Yins) the last two of four as our President.

He streamlined the rules of the competitions checking the wording dotting the I's and crossing the T's he ran every scenario through his head and as we all know he is the master of the rules to this day. The constitution got the same Stanfield treatment with every sentence scrutinised and corrected

where required. The Province has now a set of rules and a constitution that even neighbouring Areas and Provinces crib from.

Alan also brought the Province into the high-tech world is for all to see on our web site which was without doubt the most informative and most accessed site in the Royall Clubs system during his term as web master

Stepping away from Alan's achievements at Club and Province level I think I would be right in saying his greatest curling memory has to be as a member of The **Centenary Tour of Canada 2003** playing for and winning the **Strathcona Cup**. (Alan was Vice Captain touring the West) this plus winning The Scottish SENIORS Mixed Championship with Lindsay Scotland's Murrayfield Rink.

Now the most prestigious part, Umpiring and Time Keeping: - Alan started in 1997 and has since built up an unrivalled CV of major events he has officiated at here in Scotland and round the World.

Alan's theory The Role of Umpire is you should not be seen and not be heard (Not Easy in itself for Alan) but obviously he was seen by the RCCC and the WCF who recognised his abilities for detail and decorum and so through the years he progressed through various prestigious events, The Perth Master a European event, World Junior Championships at home and abroad, Wheelchair World Championships, Men's World Championships, The last Olympics, European Championships and as I am going to miss something I will give up now.

As well as curling, umpiring and time clocks Alan still finds time for running courses for aspiring umpires both here in the UK and in Europe it's his way of giving something back to the sport of curling which he has such a passion.

When Alan resigned from the Province and was made an **Honorary Member of Moray Province** and there was some speculation as to what he was going to do now and the way it was left was: - **Alan is going to continue to curl as often as other onerous duties permit**

Onerous duties	Is Alan going back to full time working?
Onerous duties	Is Alan going for the more family orientated life, staying at home some days?
Onerous duties	Is Alan Going to sunnier climes where Margaret says it would be impossible to make ice

The answer to all those questions was very easy **NO** and it was left to our present RCCC President Alan Durno to sum up "well fit the hell is he gang to do now syne."

Alan Congratulations and thank you not only on your appointment as Chief Umpire in the 2014 Olympics but all you have done for club, Province and country in the world of Curling.

In Summary

I have tried to give you an insight to our four Moray Province Curling Ambassadors as they deserve all accolades going. Good luck to you all and thank you for your dedication to our sport of curling

Bill Nicol
Web Master 06_02_14

Latest news update on team change

Paralympics GB has today announced that, due to ill health, Tom Killin will not be part of the wheelchair curling team at the Sochi Paralympic Games. He will be replaced by Jim Gault.

Gault, from Lossiemouth in Morayshire, took up Wheelchair Curling in 2008. He has competed for Team Scotland at the 2012 World Championships and has been part of the GB squad for the last four years.

Commenting on the decision, Paralympics GB Chef de Mission, Penny Briscoe said:

"We are very disappointed for Tom that his opportunity to compete in Sochi has gone at this late stage. We all wish him a speedy recovery and knowing that he'll be cheering us on will, I'm sure, spur the team on. Jim is a really fantastic replacement and we're delighted to be welcoming him onto the team. Our motto is 'best prepared' and the strength in depth that this squad has demonstrates that."

Biography of Jim Gault

Name: Jim Gault

Events: Wheelchair Curling

Home Town: Lossiemouth, Morayshire

Lives: Lossiemouth, Morayshire

Date of Birth: 24/04/1954

Jim first started playing in 2008 and has been part of the squad for the last four years. He was part of the Team Scotland line-up that competed at the 2012 World Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, where the team finished 8th.

Jim competes for Moray alongside fellow GB athlete Gregor Ewan.