

# Coldstream & Hirsell Curling Club

**Coldstream & Hirsell Curling Club was formed at a Burns Supper held in the Newcastle Arms, Coldstream, on January 25<sup>th</sup> 1881.**

(Which being the centenary of “Auld Scotia’s” Immortal Bard it occurred to a few of the lovers of the “Roaring Game” to at once celebrate the one, and form a club for the better and fuller enjoyment of the other. Despite the inclement season 20 gentlemen gathered around the festive board under the Presidency and vice-presidency of the Hon. Baird, Coldstream and Mr Thomas Mercer, the Hirsell respectively. After a sumptuous spread (including the “Curlers Fare” and the “Great Chieftain o’ the Puddin’ Race”) had been most heartily enjoyed, the various toasts incident to the occasion were duly given and heartily received. The practical business of the evening began by a motion being duly proposed, seconded and carried by acclamation “That the gentlemen present, agree to form themselves into a Curling Club, holding connections with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club under the title of the Coldstream & Hirsell Curling Club”.)

We are a small, mixed ability club and play at the Border Ice Rink in Kelso. The club was founded in 1881 when most of the members were involved in the farming community. Today our members follow various occupations and come from throughout the Borders down to Tyneside.

We welcome members of all ages and junior members (those under 18) pay a reduced subscription.

Games are played on any night during the week from the end of September through until the end of March.

Competitions –

- League – a round robin competition, from the start of season to November.
- Robert Letham League – a round robin competition from November to February.
- The Knockout – played towards the end of the season.
- Club Bonspiel – to which we usually invite members of other clubs.
- Club Pairs – a K.O. competition with a High Road and Low Road.

The Club holds an Annual Dinner and Presentation, usually in March, when the various cups and trophies are presented, to which guests are very welcome.

Club members are invited to enter as many competitions as they wish. Rinks for the competitions are drawn by the committee and published in the syllabus which is circulated to all members before the start of the season. Every effort is made to ensure that members are able to play in positions which suit their ability and that members get a chance to develop their curling skills and experience. Rinks in all competitions include male and female members.

Skips for most Border Ice Rink competitions are drawn at the AGM.

The annual club subscription for adult members –

- Club subscription - £20
- Border Ice Rink Membership - £30
- Annual levy to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club - £25

Junior members - Subs - £5 RCCC - £10

Ice Fees for juniors - £13 per game.

Ice fees for the League and Robert Letham League are paid in advance to the treasurer, who then gets billed monthly from the Border Ice Rink. In incidental games someone nominated by the club will collect the money and the score cards.

A junior section was formed by the club around the early nineties. This consisted of 8 Adults and 8 Juniors playing on a Saturday night. We had sponsorship but extra funds were raised through by a silent auction, wine and cheese and a quiz night. Later the Junior section was incorporated with the Main club where the juniors have subsidised ice.

We also have a Ladies club who play on a Thursday. We welcome all lady curlers from beginners to experienced. We have an enjoyable session making the game enjoyable, relaxed and a bit of fun.