

The Early Years of the MUTHILL CURLING CLUB

(The First 275 Years)

1739 – 2014

“Guard Well and Sweep Clean”

K. G. Young W. S.



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This booklet is dedicated to our brother and sister curlers of the Muthill Curling Club (MCC) from its formation in 1739 to the present day.

First published in 1989 by I. Garrie Publishers author K. G. Young W.S.

Second edition published in October 2014 author Bill McIntosh

With this second edition we would like to acknowledge firstly the original document most ably authored by Auchterarder Solicitor and historian K. G. Young W. S. which he produced for the Club's 250th anniversary, this second edition merely builds on that.

Acknowledgements are also due to, in antiquity to John Kerr and his "History of Curling" dated 1890 and indeed to David B Smith and his more recent and excellent book "Curling: an Illustrated History" dated, 1981. All three of these individuals garnered information from the Muthill Curling Club's records, they still exist and are in the secure custody of the Club's archivist Mr. Stewart Combe.



Foreword

It is with some pride and no little sense of responsibility that I sit down to write this Foreword. To have the privilege of contributing to this publication is a real honour and one that I would like to think that I share with all my brother and sister curlers who make up Muthill Curling Club, for it is on their behalf that I welcome you to share in our little piece of history.

When the topic of our 275th anniversary celebrations were first mooted at our 2013 AGM I didn't really appreciate the significance of what we were discussing. The turning point came when I had the rare chance to look at and hold the Minute Book that details the 'birth' of our club. It was both special and inspiring to be able to touch a piece of history going back to the second Jacobite Rebellion.

Muthill Curling Club is an active and friendly club that has kept going through some hard times. We have managed to recruit new members while other clubs struggle to survive. While we are unlikely to unseat Eve Muirhead or David Murdoch, every time we take to the ice we do our best and I hope that all our competitors enjoy their games against us and that we always show the traditional values of sportsmanship, respect and fun which make curling such a great game to play.

Currently we play 2 internal competitions in the club, one of which is designed to encourage less experienced curlers to skip and 'learn the ropes'. We also have a Points competition, a Pairs competition and 2 or 3 Bonspiels a year. In addition we play in the Upper Strathearn league and the Club League, both of which are run out of Dewars Rinks in Perth.

I feel very fortunate to be the President of the club at this time and am grateful for all the help and support that my fellow committee members have given to make our '275' happen.

In particular I would like to say a personal word of thanks to Bill McIntosh for all his efforts in researching and writing this update to our club history. He has added details and information to the original as well as updating our recent history. In this he has been ably assisted by Stewart Combe our club archivist who deserves a great deal of thanks for making sure that our precious history is kept safe for future members of the club to enjoy.

John Best
President – Muthill Curling Club
Auchterarder
October 2014

Introduction

There are few curling clubs who can claim, with the documents to prove it, an unbroken history going back to the early 18th century, Muthill Curling Club (MCC) can and in doing so the club can claim to be one of the oldest in the world.

The Club's first Minute Book, was scripted by Mr. William Gentle "Clerk to the Muthil Curling Society". The book was actually started around 1821 or 22 but clearly, it was written using documents from a much earlier period including the Club's "Laws and Regulations of the Muthil Curling Society as Instituted in the year Nov. 17th 1739". It's a proverbial treasure trove of Curling minutiae, a glimpse of an era where the sport was evolving in to what became known as "Scotland's Ain Game".

With this book we celebrate 275 years of the club's (formal) existence. The Club's history was first documented, most ably by Mr. Kenneth (K. G.) Young, Auchterarder Solicitor and Historian to celebrate the 250th anniversary. This document builds on his work, takes verbatim the original, adding to it the intervening 25 years of club history. If Mr. Young's version/legacy should be recognized as "First Edition" then this "Second Edition" is our chance as club members to ensure that we commit to the longevity of the club. We honour and celebrate our curling ancestors by maintaining and building the archive and let us hope there is a third and indeed subsequent editions.

The current list of club memorabilia including the all-important minute books is listed in Appendix 2.

Brother and Sister curlers, let's celebrate 275 years of curling history.

Coat of Arms

One of the unique features of Muthill Curling Club is that it can lay claim to the possession of a Coat-of-Arms, although it must be said that whoever was responsible for this "achievement" must have had their tongue firmly in cheek. Whatever motives led to the formation of the Club, it is apparent that a sense of humour was not lacking and as will be shown, this was certainly needed. One thing is certain, the Coat-of-Arms shown cannot have been devised by a Herald for it defies description in Heraldic terms. On the other hand, it does contain all of the essentials of the sport of Curling, even to the detail of a bottle possibly containing the product of some illicit still and two glasses. It is also interesting in that the dress of the contestants and the trappings are genuine early 18th Century.

The shield does though look rather heraldic, on the upper left there are three trickers (small metal platforms upon which the Curler would stand to deliver the stone) in the middle three curling stones with closed handles and on the right three besoms (brooms). The lower half depicts four curlers involved in a game; note the curler on the right standing in two trickers and about to deliver a stone. Two hog lines are shown, scratched on the ice as is the “head” under the foot of the Skip who looks to be giving ice for the stone to be delivered using an “out-turn” rotation.

Underneath the shield is a motto that all curlers can identify with – *“Guard Well and Sweep Clean”*.

The “Coat of Arms” sits inside the cover of the original minute book, it’s a beautifully crafted in watercolour and it is initialed, presumably by the creator, and dated 1821.



Muthill Curling Club “Coat of Arms” which was drawn up in 1821, the original is to be found inside the front cover of the Club’s first Minute Book.

The Foundation of the Club

On 17th November 1739 a group of people met together in Muthill and resolved to form a Society for playing the game of Curling. How many were in this group at the first meeting we do not know for the records kept at the time were sparse and merely consists of a list of names written out consecutively as each member joined, without saying when their membership began. These were troublesome times in Scotland for the whole Country and indeed England to a lesser extent, was divided between loyalty to the House of Stuart and support for the House of Hanover. Had this move to Muthill anything to do with the political situation?

Three years earlier, a club had been formed a few miles to the East at Strathallan and this property and Drummond Castle belonged to two of the most fervent supporters of the Stuart cause in this part of Perthshire. Again, we do not know but perhaps one can be allowed to speculate that activities such as curling were rightly regarded as non-political and non-sectarian and this was a move to divert the local populace away from the current troubles. We can take note the list of members is headed by the Reverend, William Hally the Parish Minister who had witnessed the burning of Muthill in 1716, some 12 years after his induction when his own grandmother had been carried from the Manse to escape the flames only to die on the grass outside. He had no reason to love the Stuarts and neither had the villagers who were mainly Presbyterian and thrilled to the new orders despite the fact that they were mostly Feuars and Tenants on Drummond estate. Look again at the list, the third name is the Reverend William Erskine the Episcopal Minister!

Only 6 years later the rebellion of 1745 broke out but records show that only four from Muthill joined the insurgents and thirteen from Drummond Castle and the adjoining countryside. The majority of the Drummond men were doubtless persuaded to enlist through the influences of the Laird and most of them were to be found at home having probably decided to quit when the rebel army passed through Muthill on the retreat which ended at Culloden. Of those seventeen only one can be positively identified as a Jacobite on account of his name (Lewis McRobbie of Drummond Castle), he returned home but whether through prudence or because the Curling season was drawing near is not known.

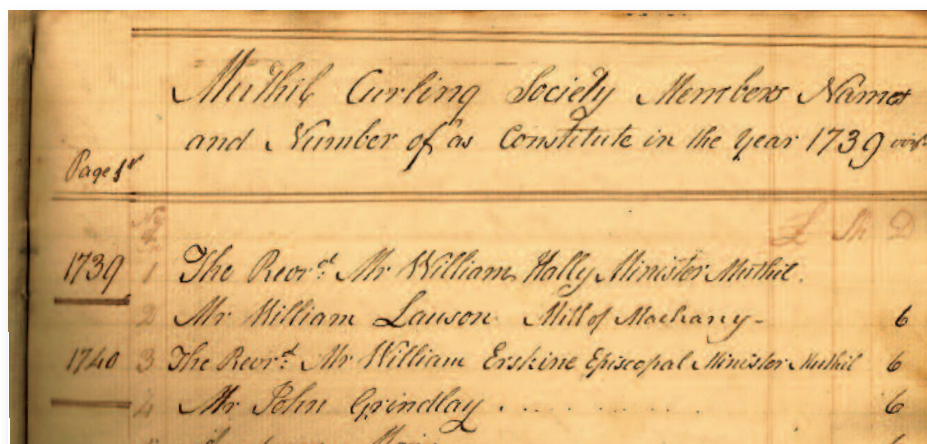
The organization which came into being under the Reverend William Hally was designated "Muthill Curling Society" The term "Club" in the Curling context only came into common usage towards the end of the 18th Century and indeed Muthill retained "Society" until it joined the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (RCCC) in 1843.

The reason for the distinction between "Society" and "Club" may owe its origins to Scots Law which interpreted "Society" as a form of partnership having certain legal rights including the right to own property in common whereas a "Club" was rather different and looser concept, that of a voluntary association or fraternity. This difference is of less consequence at the present day but in 1739 it was a matter of some importance. As a result other less usual terms were used commonly employed. Thus the Chairman of the meeting was the Precess and the members were sometimes termed "the Bretheren".

The Record Book

The first official record book of the Muthill Curling Society was not really a minute book in the accepted sense in modern times.

Only after a fairly lengthy period were the proceedings at meeting minuted and the same applies to financial details. Its use covered a number of matters principally to record the local rules applicable to membership and to keep a list of the members as each joined numbering them consecutively and showing that the entry fee had been paid. As well as the numbers in the left hand margin the year of joining is given (latterly the exact date) and thus we know that up to end January 1823, 84 years after the formation of the Society, 352 members had joined. However there is no information about the cessation of membership. As noted earlier, the minute book was actually initiated in either 1821 or 1822. We know this to be true because at the General Meeting dated 14th January 1823 Mr. William Gentle was paid the sum of £1 and 5 shillings for "Drawing out Records and Laws of this Society from its formation as contained in this book". His first membership entry was of course the Reverend William Hally as shown in this extract from the minute book.



The Rules and Statutes

The Rules and Statutes, originally 9 in number were principally of an administrative nature having little to do with the game of Curling but rather the rights and duties of members (they are listed in full in Appendix I.). In five of these rules, penalties were due for non-observance and it is interesting to note that in three cases the penalty was to be paid in Scots money notwithstanding that the old Scots currency was supposed to

have been abolished under the Act of Union of 1707. Some penalties were quite small, ranging from two to six shillings Scots equivalent in Sterling to the same number of pence. Of the remaining two, one was a penalty of five shillings sterling due by a member chosen to play but failing to turn up. Relatively this was quite a heavy fine taking into account that half a century after these Rules had been drawn up the wage of a day labourer was only one shilling a day. It would appear that Curling was a pastime for the enjoyment of those in somewhat better circumstances. The Rules also dealt with matters such as attendance at meetings, the date of the Annual General Meeting (the first Tuesday after “Auld Hansel Monday”) and the method of selection of those chosen to play in matches and the appointment of the committee.

The remaining Rule with a penalty attached deserves to be looked at on its own as it does throw some light on the game itself. Rule 5 is to the effect *“That every Residing member of the Society betwixt and the next, annual Election shall provide himself a curling stone in this Place under the penalty of one Shilling Sterling,”* and the penalty was to be applied by the Treasurer in the purchase of a stone. In 1820 it was considered necessary to revise the original rules (thenceforth to be known as “Rules and Regulations”) and to update the penalties. The revised version more or less deals with the same explicit terms. For example, the penalty for not providing a stone became eight shillings and all the other penalties were expressed in terms of Sterling. If the Treasurer was obliged to purchase a stone, after being marked it became the property of the Society and any balance left over was to be added to the Society’s funds. The term “Residing Member” is not defined but possibly it may denote the difference between regular and occasional membership.

It has to be borne in mind that in 1739 there was only one other curling club in the immediate area and so the question of residential qualification such as living in the village or parish did not arise. By the middle of the following century the position was definitely otherwise for by that time there were nine clubs in Upper Strathearn, as far west as Crieff and in Upper Strathallan. In some cases the Club’s area was quite close to a neighbouring club. Today, when the venue for curling is an enclosed ice rink in one of the larger towns, geographical membership can almost be discounted but 275 years ago it was essential that members should be found within a limited area. Nevertheless the early Roll shows that there were a number of individuals who lived at some distance from Muthill, perhaps they had some connection and being keen curlers, membership was the only way of being assured a game. For example a Rollo was a member and even one or two from Strathallan.

Before leaving the subject of the Rules, it might be mentioned that one of them was directed against unmannerly conduct during play, wagers, cursing and swearing and any “disrespectful language” were frowned on. The fines were not heavy but wagers were to be held as null and void.

There are several entries for clearing ice, one, is quite intriguing *“To Isabel White for whiskey for cleaning the ice, £0 1s. 8d.”* there is no mention of how the whiskey was applied or who benefited. There are several for repairing stones. The latter, together with the fact that a member needed to provide only one stone, is an indication that stone of the quality required may not have been easily available. There is one entry (only one!) for “finding stones out of the pond.”

From 1843 onwards we see annual reference to “fees to be forwarded to the RCCC (based on current club membership) including the cost of annuals. Below is a copy of a receipt from the RCCC dated 1850 noting fees paid for that year.



Yet another interesting entry that we see in the minutes of 17th July 1880, 2/6d to Mr. Mungo Tainish for repairs to the curling stone house at Drummond Loch. Three years later, on 22nd Sept 1883 is payment to a Mr. James Ferguson and a Mr. Joseph Williamson for the erection of a new clubhouse near the water's edge at Drummond Loch. This clubhouse, like its predecessor would of course have been used for the storage of stones as well as a base during games. There is reference to the clubhouse (mostly in the context of repair and maintenance) right up to at least 1958. It does still exist, 132 year on, substantially intact though in need of some refurbishment.



The Curling Pond

Where did games and matches take place? In the beginning this is another matter shrouded in mystery but after a time names make their appearance. Suffice it to say that there was frequently difficulty in getting a suitable pond. "Benebig" (sic) is the first place mentioned but later a pond on the farm of Pirnhill tenanted by David Cram was used and a number of improvements carried out to make it more suitable including a tunnel to let out surplus water. However this lasted only for a few years for certain improvements presumably of better drainage, as a result of which the pond was no longer available. One suspects it simply disappeared. A request was then made to the proprietor of Drummond Estate who by this time was Lord Willoughby d' Eresby. It was suggested that there might be a suitable spot close to Lintibert but this was turned down and instead a site on the southwest corner of William Taylor's farm was offered. This was accepted and after Tenders had been received this came to fruition. This Pond is particularly interesting in that it was entirely man made, built to a specification written up by the Club and built by Mr. James Robin for the sum of 36 shillings. The specification appears in the minutes dated Dec. 21st 1832 and call for a Pond 47 yards long by 12 yards wide and 18 inches deep, Club members were asked for donations to help defray the cost.

Later that Century the "pond" of choice seemed to be Drummond Loch to the extent that the Club built a wooden "Curling Stone House" there probably around the 1870's (see above) . They built another (presumably a replacement) in 1883 and maintained it until at least the late 1950's.

The Club probably began curling indoor sometime in the 1920's, there is reference to Muthill having won against a Cawdor rink by 7 shots at the Inter Provincial Games at Edinburgh Ice Rink (probably Haymarket) in 1928. The "Central Scotland Ice Rink" at Perth gets its first formal mention in the minutes of October 1936 where it is noted that two Rinks were to be entered for the "Reid Trophy" and the "Graham Trophy" respectively.

Of Stones, Rinks and Competition

The Muthill Curling Club has competed and continues to do so both provincially, locally and of course internally (to the Club) since its formation all of these years ago.

The first minute book though unfortunately does not make many references to matches played or about to be played, even less so the results. There are though, a number of entries whereby the committee met to select Skips for upcoming matches (the Skips in turn would select their respective rink members).

The timing of these selection meetings were of course entirely dependent on the availability of ice on the Ponds, there is one entry that notes that there was no curling for two seasons, there being no suitable ice.

There is an interesting entry (dated 23rd January 1841, the match was played on the 26th.), which talks about arrangements for an upcoming game with Strathallan (these games seemed to have taken place quite regularly) where there were 25 curlers on each side, each with their own stone, 50 curlers fortified by whisky on one sheet of ice!

Rinks of this size were quite common and the practice lasted up until it seems the 1850's. Eventually the club will have been forced to conform to the RCCC rules (the Club joined in 1843 the year Queen Victoria granted the RCCC a Royal Charter), which limited a rink to 4 persons.

The club seemed to have almost immediately after joining the RCCC begun to take part in District Medals and Grand Matches. A newspaper article possibly from the Stirling Advertiser and thought to be dated around 1843 (it's glued in to the back of the minute book) reporting on an RCCC District Medal match between Crieff and Muthill (6 rinks from each club) on the West Pond at Drummond Castle, Muthill won by 23 shots, to much local acclaim.

The next entry is dated 1 January 1850 where Muthill were curling against Tillicoultry (4 rinks from each club) for another RCCC District Medal, Muthill won by 51 shots.

Eight days later (it must have been a cold winter!) the club was again competing this time against Crieff at Drummond Pond for a medal given by Lord Willoughby D'Eresby which once more was won by Muthill, 46 shots to 28.

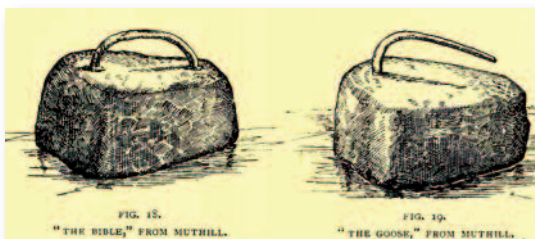
Expenses for the earlier match included 6 bottles of whiskey at a cost of 8 shillings and the latter for a half-gallon of whiskey. In each case the matches lasted three and a half hours. If nothing else our curling forbearers' had stamina! Not least of which of course was to be able to deliver a hefty stone.

Stones

Typical of these is the stone thought to have belonged to the Muthill club's founding member the Rev. William Hally, his initials W M H are carved on it (shown Fig. 1). The stone is dated 1700, a hammer dressed channel boulder roughly circular in shape with a unique three-legged iron handle, it weighs 55lb. The date also points to the fact that curling was taking place in Muthill long before the formation of the club. The stone still exists and is in the RCCC's historical collection.



This information, and the sketch were obtained from John Kerr's book "A History of Curling" 1890. Two other stones, also in the same book, one "The Bible", the other "The Goose" (shown Fig.2) are noted as being Muthill stones, a third called the "Hen" is noted but not shown, the whereabouts of all



three are lost in the mists of time. The dimensions and weight of stones evolved over time, RCCC lead the way in terms of standardization. The Muthill club recognized this and in the minutes of 30th Sept 1891 stated "The Club having considered Rule 5 in reference to size and weight of stones in the RCCC annual is unanimously of the opinion that maximum weight should be 42lb. and maximum circumference not to exceed 35 inches".



External Competition

An outdoor Grand Match is the Mecca for those who appreciate the curling game and its traditions. It is, as we know a contest between the Curlers of the North of Scotland and their counterparts in the South with the dividing line the River Forth. A Grand Match has been described as the biggest team game in the world.

The first took place in January 1847 at Penicuik, Midlothian, and on 32 occasions since. Two further matches were held at other sites before the RCCC for safety reasons moved the venue to a purpose built site at Carsebreck, Perthshire (about two miles west of Blackford).

The Muthill Curling club took four rinks to the first Grand Match to be held at Carsebreck and took rinks to each thereafter but without bringing home any trophies. On that first match they did though help the North beat the South by 333 shots.



That changed in December 1925 when the first Grand Match to be held after World War One took place. Over 2000 curlers took part, it was reported that, “the weather was fine and the ice fairly good, some excellent play was exhibited”. Reproduced here is one of three original photographs gifted to the Club by Robin Williamson whose father played in that Match. The two Muthill rinks took the Challenge Trophy. The Challenge Trophy by the way is awarded to the Club on the winning side having the highest average majority of shots per rink. To qualify for the Challenge Cup a Club had to put at least two rinks on the ice. Each member of a winning rink would have been given an engraved gold medal.

Over the years the Club has had some success, (though not in the recent past), at Province and District level. In its possession the Club has some 26 RCCC District medals, unfortunately none of them are engraved therefore it is near impossible to work out when they were won. In addition to these there are six Province medals, again, none of them won in the recent past. Only three of them are engraved and only two of these with dates, 1928 and 1933 respectively, there is no date on the third but it does seem to be the most recent, its design is more modern than the others. The last medal i.e. of those won from outside the Club, is silver and hallmarked and was gifted by the Hon. A.D. Willoughby in 1849. It is called the Crieff and Muthill Curling Club Medal which history records, Muthill won in 1850 and Crieff in 1855. The Minute Book makes reference to a meeting being called to arrange the 1856 match but is silent on the outcome, why this medal is in Muthill's possession today is a mystery.

Curling season 1932-33 is noted in the minutes as being a "good year", the club, in six competitions in successive days won four of them; The Provincial Medal (noted above), the Willoughby Cup, the Vice-Presidents Cup and the Feddal Broom.

More recently, in relative terms, the Club did win the Upper Strathearn League in 1973 (played 13, won 9, lost 3, drawn 1).



Today of course virtually all curling takes place indoors, however, when conditions allow and the ice is thick enough the Club venture outdoors. In these photographs taken in 2001 club members are taking part in a Bonspiel on Drummond Loch.



In the group photograph left to right we have; George Carstairs, Lindsay Henderson, Fraser Bruce, Colin Maitland-Gardner, Colin's daughter Sarah, Athol Turnbull, John Steven, Stewart Combe and Ann Turnbull.

Internal Competition

In no particular order, we have first the Williamson Kettle, which was presented by D. R. Williamson, President of the Lawers-Comrie Curling Club in 1907 for competition between local curling clubs; Muthill won it outright in season 1928/29.

The Willoughby Jug (or Tankard as it's described in the Muthill minute book) was presented by, The Right Hon. Lady Willoughby De Eresby in 1858. It was presented for competition between the curling clubs in the district of Upper Strathearn to be played for over three successive years. It was won and retained by Muthill in that third season on the basis of having the highest number of shots in proportion to the number of their rinks. The engraving on the Jug actually says it was won by Muthill after five competitions with eleven clubs and the date of presentation is 1881.

The Club members also compete for two shields and a plate.

The larger of the two shields (on the left of picture) is presented to the rink that wins the season's Closing Bonspiel, first presented/played for in season 1978. The Bonspiel Shield was donated by club members Alan King and Fraser Hardie.

The smaller of the two is the William Gray Memorial Shield (donated by Mrs. Gray in memory of her husband Willie) and is presented at the end of each season to the most improved curler.

The Plate, in the middle, presented to the Club in 2014 by past members Sue and Dave Watt for the annual Ladies versus Gents competition.

Next, a Pewter Quaich presented to the club in 1981/82 by members John Dewar, Ian Garrie and David Cunningham for the winners of the annual Pairs competition.

The competition for the Williamson Kettle the Willoughby Jug and the Quaich are run on an annual league basis within the Club.



The Points competition, four medals, all presented to the club by members in relative antiquity, from left to right;

First place (Gold medal), originally presented to the Club by Sir William Elliot Bart.

For second place, silver medal, provenance unknown at present.

For third place, presented by Mr. Robert T. N. Speir of Culdees (then Club President) in 1855.

The fourth place medal, presented by Colonel Russell, club member, in 1865.

The Famous Grouse Trophy presented to the Club at the 250th anniversary Bonspiel and is contested at the curling season's Opening Bonspiel.

Last but by no means least, the Lord Aveland Trophy, presented by him circa 1865, to the club, for competition. The minutes of 18 July 1886 suggest that it was a "Points" type competition run over three successive seasons. The winner would be the member scoring the highest number of points over the three years. We can only assume someone did win it and retained it, who that person was is for the moment a mystery. There is no record of it being presented in the minute book. Even more intriguing, a Mr. Fotheringham found it when he was clearing his attic in preparation for a house move in Crieff around 1998. It too is played for but in this case it's the club golf trophy.



Club Membership, in the beginning and in the Millennium (1739 to 2014)

We note earlier that from 1739 to 1823 some 352 members had joined the Muthill Curling Club. The data tells us who joined, not who left so we really don't know, for this period, the size of the club on an annual basis.

At the time the Club joined the R.C.C.C (in 1843) membership stood at 43, this included the Patron and Patroness Lord and Lady Willoughby D'Eresby. Membership, that is, numbers curling did not seem to be an issue throughout the 1800s. We do though note from the minutes of July 1880 a proposal to amalgamate with the Drummond Castle Club, (the proposal looks to have been made by the Drummond Castle Club), it's not clear why, the Muthill Club certainly wasn't lacking in members, in the event it came to nothing.

There are no recorded minutes from March 1902 until October 1927 but club membership is recorded in the RCCC Annuals for that period. It was midway through WWII until 1951 that the Club was struggling to increase membership. Each set of minutes for that period expressed concern and once again the proposal of an amalgamation with Drummond Castle Club was raised to the extent that both clubs met to discuss the issue. The Club did though retain membership of the RCCC but paid a nominal £1 annually. The amalgamation did not take place and by 1952 Club fortunes had changed for the better; the minutes of September 1952 notes that membership had increased from 11 to 20 and that there had been good ice on Drummond Loch and members had good sport in Competition and in Friendlies.

This continues today, the quest for new members, new blood, securing the future of the "roaring game" not just for the Muthill Curling Club but for Scotland's "ain game". It's beholden to all of us to secure the future.

The 1952 -1953 season also saw ladies beginning to appear on the membership lists, Mrs. Maitland-Gardiner and Mrs. James McNicol. That of course doesn't necessarily mean there were none before then, if there were it was not recorded.

In summary.....

When the unknown person prepared his Coat of Arms, he appended the following motto, "Guard well and sweep clean." How knowledgeable of the essentials of curling this individual must have been and how well the Curlers of Muthill have lived up to this precept and will doubtless continue to do so.

Appendix 1.

“RULES AND STATUTES to be observed by the SOCIETY OF CURLERS in MUTHIL, November the 17th, 1739.

1. That each Member shall attend the Precess of any Quorum of the Society when called, unless they have a reasonable excuse, under the penalty of Six Shillings Scots.
2. That no match of curling shall be taken up with another Parish until five of the Members of the Society be previously acquainted therewith, and those that shall be chosen to play in any such match are not to absent themselves there from, under the penalty of Five Shillings Sterling, and being extruded the Society till payment.
3. That the annual election of all the officers of the Society shall be upon the first Tuesday of -----
4. That there shall be no wagers, cursing or swearing, during the time of game, under the penalty of Two Shillings Scots for each oath, and the fines for by wagers to be at the discretion of the Precess and the other members present, and the wagers in themselves void and null.
5. That every residing Member of the Society betwixt and the next annual election shall provide himself in a curling stone, to be kept in this place under the penalty of One Shilling Sterling.
6. That all the money received by the Society for the entry of new Members or Fynes be kept for the use of the Society in general.
7. That every Member shall pay yearly to the Treasurer Four Shillings Scots, for the use foresaid.
8. That after this date at taking up any matches betwixt any two parties they are only to have choice about.
9. That there shall be no addition or alteration made of the above Rules but at the yearly meetings.

Appendix 2.

INVENTORY OF THE MUTHILL CURLING CLUB MEMORABILIA CIRCA 2014.

1. The famous minute book which covers the period 1739 to 1871.
2. Two other minute books from 1879 to 1957 and from 1958 to 1978.
3. A plaque to commemorate 100 years membership of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club 1843-1943.
4. The 1843 RCCC annual where Muthill Curling Club appear for the first time. This annual was presented by Major Lindsay, club member and past President in 1978.
5. The RCCC annual of 1939-40 which contains a report on the bi-centenary of the Muthill Club which was held (a little prematurely) on 24th February 1939. Jimmy Duncan of Ardoch Curling Club presented this annual to the club.
6. Three photographs given to the Club by Robin Williamson of the two Muthill winning rinks in the RCCC Grand Match of 1925, his father Skipped one of the two rinks at that Match.
7. The Williamson Kettle, circa 1907.
8. The Willoughby Jug, circa 1858.
9. The Pairs Quaich circa 1983.
10. The Points medals: First place; Medal originally presented by, Sir William Elliot Bart. Second place; silver medal provenance at present unknown. Third place; Medal presented to the Club by Mr. T. N. Speir. In 1855. Fourth place; Presented by club member Colonel Russell, in 1865.
11. The Closing Bonspiel shield presented by Club members Alan King and Fraser Hardie.
12. The William Gray Memorial Shield for best Curler.
13. The Ladies and Gents plate gifted by Dave and Sue Watt.
14. 6 Province Medals.
15. 26 District medals, dates unknown.
16. Medal given in 1993 to commemorate 150 years membership of the RCCC.
17. The Famous Grouse trophy presented to the winning rink at the season's opening Bonspiel.
18. The Lord Aveland Cup, gifted to the club by him circa 1865 found in a house clearance in Crieff around 1998, it is currently competed for as a Golf trophy within the club.

Appendix 3.

The 250th Anniversary Bonspiel



The Rev. William Halley's "Muthill Fluke" being thrown by Honorary Member Major David Maitland-Gardner at the start the 250th Anniversary Bonspiel.

Those in support, from L to R; Ian Garrie, Ken Kummerer, Stewart Combe, George Hunter, Tom Gray, Alan King, George Mailer, Colin Maitland-Gardiner, Fred Paul, David Cunningham and James Thomson.

Those taking part in the 250th Anniversary Bonspiel (1989) at Dewar's ice rink Perth



Front row – L to R Katie Lennox, Betty McGregor, Margaret Aiken, Alan Hannah, Susie Stewart, Linda Maitland- Gardiner, Eleanor Aitken, David Cunningham, Peter Dawson, Ken Kummerer, Douglas Ross, Douglas Drysdale, George Carstairs and James Thomson. **Second row – L to R** Stephen Baker, Cheri Ritchie, Fiona Hall, Sheila McPherson, David Strathie, Stewart Combe, Jack Carstairs, Jim Fordyce, Alan King, Terry Hainey, David Hunter, Lindsay Henderson, Archie McGowan, John Steven, John Soutar. **Third row – L to R** Janice Grant, Ian Garrie, Major David-Maitland Gardiner, Moray Combe, Fred Paul, Peter Cameron, Ali Coventry, Ian Hunter, Roy McGregor, George Mailer, Stuart Rankin. **Back row – L to R** Robin Williamson, George Hunter, Bill Lennox, Gordon Lennox, Colin Maitland-Gardiner, Angus Munro, Tom Gray, Gordon Cunningham, Bill Stark, Andy Stewart, George Mailer.

