

## **POLLOK CURLING CLUB**

### **The Beginning**

It is said that the origins of Pollok Curling Club are derived from a game of curling held at Hart's Muir, Giffnock.

"The result of the game was in order to provide a meal for the poor. The winners had to place the order and charge same to the losers. The losers said however that as they had to pay they had the right to place the order. The result was that the meal was ordered by both parties and before the dispute could be settled they had to call the Sheriff who decided in favour of the winners with the result that the cost of the court expenses was more than the meal cost for both parties. This brought about a split in the Eastwood Curling Club - the winners staying at the old pond at Hart's Muir and the losers started a club on a pond situated near Smith's farm off the Cowglen Road, which is now part of Cowglen Golf Club"

This dispute would seem to have been between members of Pollokshaws Curling Club.

The disgruntled losers departed to curl on their pond at Cowglen and called themselves the Eastwood Curling Club.

The first meeting of the Eastwood Curling Club was held on the evening of 25th November, 1879. At a subsequent meeting held on 3rd December, 1879 Mr John Urie was appointed the first President, Mr Robert Smith the Treasurer and Mr Peter Sharpe the Secretary.

At this meeting a decision was taken to obtain a site suitable for a curling pond. Two sites were considered - one on ground belonging to a Mr. Deans of Dovehill and the other on ground belonging to a Mr. Smith of Bangers Hill, Cowglen. As the cost of the former was to be 30 pounds sterling per annum and the latter 7 pounds sterling per annum it was agreed to take up the offer of the site at Bangers Hill Cowglen. The meeting also fixed the annual subscription at 5/- per annum.

The Minutes record that on 28th September, 1883 a letter was sent to Sir John Stirling Maxwell Bart. inviting him to become Patron of the Club, the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of which Eastwood Curling Club was associated requiring that a patron be wanted.

At a General Meeting Of the Eastwood Curling Club held on 9th September, 1887 it was unanimously resolved to ask Sir John Stirling Maxwell to become an honorary member of the Club and enquire whether he might consider presenting a cup to be played for annually by members of the club. Sir John accepted the invitation to join the Club as an honorary member and was delighted to present a cup to the Club which was to be played for every year with the names of the winning rink being inscribed upon it. In a letter dated 6th November 1887 Sir John states "I am glad that you have decided to have only one cup to be curled for annually - it is a plan which always answers well. I have obtained a cup and have directed them, Messrs Hamilton and Inches, to send it to you. It is an old tankard, dating I think from Queen Anne's reign. I shall look forward to having a game with the Club some day." This tankard is still played for to this day at a Bonspiel held at the end of each season.

## **Name Change**

At a Special General Meeting of the Club held in the Masonic Arms on 2nd May, 1895 there appears to be some discontent about the way the Club had been run and as to certain treatment that had been afforded to Sir John Stirling Maxwell. The existing office bearers duly resigned and it was agreed the Club be reorganised.

Proposed new rules of the Club were read out and accepted by the members. Rule 1 was a blank for the name of the Club and it was the opinion of the members that the Club be called **Pollok Curling Club** as the portion of the Parish with which it was connected was really Pollok.

## **Current Position**

Pollok Curling Club is a member of the Glasgow Province (Area 4) of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. It has 43 playing members, 11 associate members and 1 honorary member.

Each year there are 3 Bonspiels which are played at Greenacres Curling Rink. These are as follows :

Opening Bospiel played for the Centenary Trophy which is a silver cigar box presented to the Club by Harry Noble who was the Club's President in it's centenary year.

Christmas Bospiel played for in December for the Wintersgill Stone which is a silver curling stone presented to the Club by the Wintersgill family. John Wintersgill is an associate member while his son Graham still plays.

Closing Bospiel played for at the end of the season normally in March for the Sir John Stirling Maxwell Tankard referred to above.

In addition to the Bonspiels there are two leagues of seven rinks played round robin style, one before Christmas and one after New Year. They are played for the Cameron Medal and Stuart Trophy respectively at Braehead Ice Rink.

Also there is a knock-out tournament played for the Eastwood Rosebowl during December at Greenacres Ice Rink.

The Club also plays friendly but competitive matches against other Club's during the year. These include matches against Crossmyloof Curling Club, Giffnock Curling Club, Cathcart Castle Curling Club, Glasgow XX Curling Club, Keir Curling Club, Bridge Of Allan Curling Club and Linn & Clarkston Curling Club.