

Banff & Macduff Curling & Skating Clubs



STANLEY BRUCE

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*Cover – Curling match held in 1895 between Banff and Turriff on the frozen River Deveron aside the Brig o' Banff.
(Aberdeen Press and Journal - Saturday 4th March 1933).*

This book has been published on an entirely non-profit basis and made available to all free of charge as a pdf. The aim of the book is to make the history of Banff and Macduff available to a wider audience.

If you have any comments regarding this book, or any further information, especially photographs, since this is an electronic edition it will be possible to update and include any further information.

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Banff & Macduff Curling & Skating Clubs.

By

Stanley Bruce

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First Electronic Edition.

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Whilst I have taken great care in preparing this publication, I have of course relied on some previous historic information by others. Where conflicting information was found, I have added what seemed the most credible, at least to my mind, I therefore accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

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From the 'History of Curling' by John Kerr (1890).

Introduction.

Firstly, I must say, I have never played curling and I don't really have an interest in the sport. My aim in my research was simply to find out where the curling ponds existed in Banff and Macduff from a historical viewpoint, and to determine their size and use.

It's hard to imagine outdoor curling rinks in Banff and Macduff today, however, both towns at one time each had a pond used for curling. The Macduff pond was at Gellyhill and the Banff pond originally at Colleopard, that was before the two clubs amalgamated in 1907 and a new sizable pond with a pavilion, thanks to the Duke of Fife was built in the grounds of Duff House.

The Macduff ice pond at Gellymill opened in 1886. On the 1904 map it shows a small building aside the pond, perhaps this was a small shed or pavilion.

The Banff pond at Colleopard opened for skating and curling in January 1888 on the site of the former old mill of Banff distillery dam. (The distillery was dismantled in 1863, thought to be after a fire and established at Inverboyndie). In 1910, the pond was leased by the newly formed Banff Skating Club from Mr Simpson for the sum of £2.00 per annum. (Approx. £241 in 2020).

Today, all three ponds are gone, however if you venture into the grounds of Duff House and pass through the gates to Wrack Wood, on your immediate right is a privately owned house which was the former laundry of Duff House, but on your left is the former site of the **Banff and Macduff Curling Club** pond. You may notice a relatively flat area without any trees on the south side of the wire fence, and if you give the ground a scrape, you will see some of the tarmacadam of the former ice rink underneath.



Gates to Wrack Woods. (S. Bruce).

I tend to think the curlers were all men, as I did not find any names of women curlers other than those associated with the skating club. It looks like the sport of curling was not for the working classes as members of the clubs all seem to be prominent members of the community including the provost. I guess curling stones were quite expensive making the sport out of reach to many.

I did not find anything about skating and curling in the *'Book of Banff'* nor in the book *'Old Banff and Macduff'*, so I thought I'd remedy that omission as far as my knowledge allowed. I have searched the British Newspaper Archive and typed-up everything that I found. There are a lot of names mentioned in the press reports which may be of use to family history researchers. Some of the press reports also give an insight into the weather.

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Banff and Macduff Ponds.

The curling ponds at Gellymill, Colleonard and Duff House measured approximately as follows:

Curling Pond	Length		Width	
	Feet	Metres	Feet	Metres
Colleonard, Banff.	250	76.2	150	45.72
Duff House, Banff.	290	88.39	50	15.24
Gellymill, Macduff.	160	48.77	60	18.29

All these rinks could accommodate more than one sheet, thereby allowing two, perhaps three games to be played simultaneously. The Colleonard pond was much bigger than the other two, as it was established on the former Old Mill of Banff Distillery pond and could accommodate skaters; on this pond curling and skating could both be ongoing at the same time, although it appears that some of the skaters were on occasions not happy about sharing with the curlers, finding the skating *'monotonous'*, I guess due to limited space available for skating when curling was being played.

Some Curling Rink Basics.

Curling is affectionately known as *"the roaring game"*, this name originates from the rumbling sound the 44-pound (19.96 kg) granite stones make when they travel across the ice.

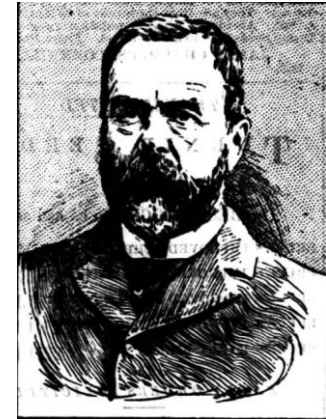
Rink or sheet	A flat and level rectangular in shape area of ice, with a length 146 to 150 feet (45 to 46m) x width 14.5 feet to 16.5 feet (4.4m to 5m).
Backboards	These are found at the short ends of the sheet.
No. of players	Four per team, lead, second, third, and skip.
Skip	Captain of a team.
Soop it up	Term for 'Sweep it up'.
Bonspiel	A curling competition.
Beef and greens	Traditional meal eaten at curling club dinners.
Curlers Court	See the book 'History of Curling' by John Kerr on www.electricscotland.com

Timeline.

1879, 8th January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal published this poem about curling:

*Then hurrah for the curling, frae Girvan to Stirling,
Hurrah for the lads o' the besom and stane;
"Ready noo!" "Soop it up!" "Clap a guard!" "Steady noo!"
O curling aboon every game stands alane.*

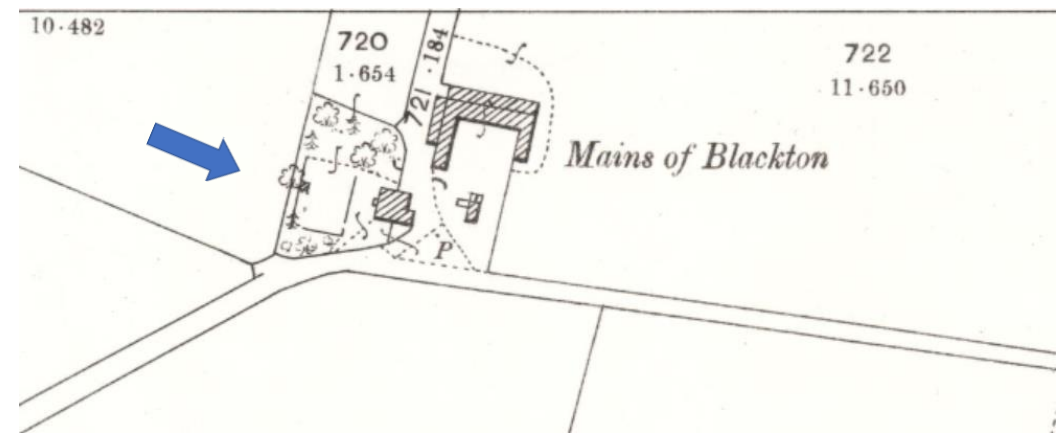
1886, 1st January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: "**MACDUFF. – CURLING.** – *The annual general meeting of the **Macduff Curling Club** was held within the Council Chambers on Wednesday evening. Provost George occupied the chair. The meeting proceeded to the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, when Provost George was elected president, Rev. Mr Chisholm, Banff, vice-president; and Mr Charles Milne, secretary and treasurer; and the following gentlemen were elected members of council, viz., Messrs James Bisset, J. Anderson, Rev. Wm. Hunter, and Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff, Banff. Messrs Wm. Dawson and John Hutchison were admitted members of the club. A communication from the **Aboyne Curling Club** was read, when it was resolved to send two rinks to the bonspiel to be held at Aboyne this season. The accounts of the club were submitted, showing a balance of £2 10s."*



*Provost George of Macduff.
(Banffshire Journal and
General Advertiser, 9th May
1893).*

1886, 9th February: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: *“The **Macduff Curling Club** played a match with Huntly on Thursday. At the end of the game, the skips’ cards – Rev. Mr Hunter and Mr Milne for Macduff showed respectively 14 and 10, against Mr Taylor and Mr Morgan for Huntly – 23 and 20. Huntly thus won the match by 19 points. After lunch, provided by the Huntly Club for their guests, another game was played, in which the Coast Club scored a victory – Mr Hunter’s team leaving off equal with their opponents at 12; Mr Milne at 20 to 4. Thus in the two games, Huntly’s victory was reduced to three points. Considering the few opportunities the youthful Coast Club have for play, their plucky attempt to wrest victory from the veterans of Huntly, who can boast, for the last two years that they have won every match with their neighbouring clubs, is very creditable. What was greatly desiderate is a new pond, not too near the coast to be influenced by the salt sea air, nor too distant to be difficult of access. It is to be hoped that by another season the club will see its way to provide such a pond. As this grand old national game will become more known and appreciated in this quarter, many more members will join the Club, and, between the two towns, a very efficient club ought to be established. Gentlemen wishing to join can do so by giving in their names to the secretary, Mr Milne, Fife Arms, Macduff.”*

1887, 8th January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: *“**CURLING. – MACDUFF.** – The members of the Macduff Curling Club had practice on the Blackton Pond, King-Edward on Thursday afternoon. The ice was in good condition. Skips – Rev. Mr Hunter, and Mr Milne, Fife Arms. The former made 14 points and the latter 9 points. Another game was played by Mr William Dawson and Mr John Anderson, which was won by one point by Mr Dawson. The scores were – Mr Dawson, 8 points; and Mr Anderson, 7 points.”*



1902 map showing presumed pond at Mains of Blackton,
King Edward.

(Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland).

1887, 20th January: The Banffshire Advertiser reported as follows: *“**SLIDING IN THE STREETS.** – At the Police Court on Monday – before Provost Williamson – five boys residing in town were charged with contravening the 251st section of the General Police Act, by having been found sliding in Seafield Street, to the danger of the lieges. They admitted the offence, and the Provost, in admonishing them, remarked that although the offence was perhaps not a serious one, yet it was one which was attended with a very great amount of danger to the inhabitants. Boys were, no doubt, fond of sliding, and it was a healthy recreation, but he pointed out that there were many places round about the town where they might indulge in the sport without endangering anyone. They would be dismissed, but he hoped that their being brought up would be a warning to others, and if anyone was brought up charged with the same offence, after the warning that had been given, a severe penalty would be inflicted.”*

Perhaps the boys being pulled up for sliding on Seafield Street led to the skating and curling pond being established at Colleopard, we’ll never know, but a mere 3-months after their appearance in court notice was given in the local press regarding the formation of a curling and skating pond.

1887, 16th April: The Banffshire Reporter reported as follows: *“A curling pond is about to be formed on the site of the old Mill of Banff dam by the **Banff Curling Club.**”*

1887, 22nd October: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: *“**MACDUFF – CURLING CLUB.** – The annual meeting of the Curling Club was held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening – Provost George presiding. Office-bearers were elected, with the Earl of Fife as patron. The balance-sheet was read, and a committee appointed to ascertain the cost of a small house at the curling pond. At the end of last curling season, a new pond was constructed at Gellymill measuring 160 feet by 60 feet.”*

1887, 5th December: The Aberdeen Evening Express reported as follows: *“The Banff Curling Pond does, after all, hold in, and its bottom does not resemble that of a sieve. That has been proved, and it is to be hoped that before many weeks have passed the members of the club may enjoy the sport for which they are eagerly longing.”*



Map dated 1904 showing the Colleonard Curling Pond. (Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland).

According to a press report at the opening of the Colleonard curling pond it measured 250 feet x 150 feet.

1887, 13th December: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **“MACDUFF.** – *The Macduff Curling Pond was frozen yesterday, and the members of the club enjoyed their favourite game for the first time this season.*”

1888, 23rd January: The Aberdeen Evening Express reported as follows: *“The Banff Curling and Skating Pond has at last been opened, and a few hours sport was enjoyed by the members on the opening day. The weather, however, was unkind, and the keen frosty day on which the inauguration ceremony took place was succeeded by a day of abnormal mildness. The ice melted, and the spirits of the curlers and skaters, which had been raised to a high pitch of excitement, sank below zero. Until the frost returns the devotees of the roaring game must grin and bear it.”*

1888, 24th January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: “**BANFF – INAUGURATION OF CURLING POND.** – *The new pond of the recently instituted Banff Curling and Skating Club was formally opened on Friday afternoon by Sheriff Hamilton-Grierson, in presence of a considerable numbers of ladies and gentlemen. The site of the pond is in a field at the back of the Nursery, near Mid Colleopard, and many will remember it as the site of the dam for the old Mill of Banff distillery. The pond is vey spacious, measuring 150 feet by 250 feet, which will afford full accommodation for curlers and skaters. The pond is fed by two runs of water. These meet in a concrete tank from which the water falls into the pond, and when it is full the surplus water passes off by an over-flow pipe. The work was carried out to the satisfaction of the members by Mr Anderson, contractor, Aberchirder, after plans by Mr Cossar, architect, Banff. The cost of the pond was about £60. The winter so far has been unusually mild, and Friday was about the first opportunity which presented itself to have the pond formally opened. The day was very frosty and the clear and crisp atmosphere made a walk from the town to the pond very enjoyable. A considerable number of ladies and gentlemen were therefore congregated at the west end of the pond, where the ceremony was performed. Mr D. Haig, chief constable, explained the objects of the gathering, and said they had been rather late in the season of getting ice, but they had been successful at last, and Sheriff Hamilton-Grierson, who had very kindly consented to open the pond, was there that day for that purpose. He need scarcely, in introducing Sheriff Hamilton-Grierson, draw attention to the fact that he had made himself very popular and well-known amongst them since he had come there. That being so, it was scarcely necessary to pass any further remark, and he had great pleasure in introducing to them Sheriff Hamilton-Grierson. (Applause). Sheriff Hamilton-Grierson said he had very great pleasure indeed in being there that day in so very excellent weather. He was sure they would not expect him in the present state of the atmosphere to detain them too long by making any remarks before they started the real business of the matter; but he understood that there had been a great want in Banff for some years of a curling pond, and now when they had got one, he thought their first duty, before they began really to enjoy themselves, was that they should unanimously state their great indebtedness to the gentlemen to whose strenuous efforts they owed this very substantial addition to their amusement. (Applause). He might say that mere gratitude would not be sufficient as a mark of their esteem for what they had done; so he hoped everybody present and many others not present, both ladies and gentlemen, would become members of the Club.*

(Applause). He hoped that no gentlemen would be debarred from becoming members of the Club by the fact that they had not on any previous occasion done anything in the curling line; for although he had the privilege and benefit of being born in a curling county, he was there as an awful example of a neglected upbringing in this respect – (laughter) - and he hoped that would be sufficient warning to all gentlemen that they would join at once. (Applause). With regard to the ladies, he hoped that many of them would join in order not only to enjoy themselves, but to give them the benefit and pleasure of their society. There was only one other person whose presence they desired even more than the ladies – though it was rather an ungallant remark to make – and that was the presence of Jack Frost, and he hoped he would be there for a very considerable time. (Applause). He had very great pleasure in declaring the pond open. (Applause). Mr Alexander Ramsay, St Leonards, said he was sure they would all agree with him that it was very kind of the sheriff, leaving for the time his important judicial duties, to come amongst them that day, and to encourage by his presence the institution among them of the national game of curling, and to inaugurate that very fine curling pond. (Applause). As the sheriff remarked, the game was very much a south country or a central district game. At all events, it was entirely a new game in the Banff district, and in consequence of its novelty ladies or gentlemen might perhaps have some doubt of connecting themselves with it. When they found, however, that the sheriff came forward and gave it his full countenance and support, all that difficulty he thought should vanish, because none would for a moment suppose that he would ‘lead them on the ice’, unless indeed he was perfectly sure that no evil would come to them –(Applause) - and he was sure that no evil but much good would come from the practice of this national game. He begged to move a very cordial vote of thanks to Sheriff Hamilton-Grierson for so kindly coming amongst them that day and opening the pond. (Applause). The majority of those present thereafter betook themselves to the ice, which was in very good condition. A rink was formed, and as Sheriff Hamilton-Grierson put off the first stone to the tee, cordial cheers were raised. A number of skaters were also on the ice, over which they merrily skimmed.”

1888, 28th January: *The Aberdeen Weekly News reported as follows: “**OPENING OF NEW CURLING AND SKATING POND.** – On Friday afternoon last the new curling and skating pond, which has been constructed for the Banffshire Club on the farm of Colleopard, was formally opened by Sheriff Hamilton Grierson. The site of the pond was previously occupied as*

a dam for the Old Mill of Banff Distillery, so that little difficulty was experienced in converting it into a safe and commodious rink. A very enjoyable game was then played under various skips. Mr C. W. Cosser, architect, Banff, prepared the plans for the pond.”

1888, 28th January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: *“The Banff Curling and Skating Pond has at last been opened, and a few hours’ sport was enjoyed by the members on the opening day. The weather, however, was unkind, and the keen frosty day on which the inauguration ceremony took place was succeeded by a day of abnormal mildness.”*

1888, 6th November: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“BANFF SKATING AND CURLING CLUB.** – *Last night the annual meeting of the members of this Club was held in the Council Chamber. Mr Rust presided, and there was a pretty large attendance. Mr George Shearer, the secretary, submitted report, from which it appeared that the Club was in a satisfactory state. A balance of the cost of forming the pond still remains to be wiped off, and it is expected that will be accomplished this year, in which event the original member’s subscriptions will be reduced to a nominal sum. The report was adopted, and Mr Shearer was cordially thanked for his services. The office-bearers were re-elected for next year. It was resolved that curling should be confined to a particular section of the pond which would be marked off by the committee. Mr Rust was thanked for presiding.”*

1889, 3rd January: The Glasgow Herald reported as follows: **“BANFF.** – *Yesterday the Banff Skating and Curling Pond at Colleonard was opened for the season by Provost Smith, Banff, in presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen Having been introduced by Mr Haig (Chief-Constable), the Provost referred to the healthy and invigorating exercise of skating and curling, and expressed the hope that the pond would realise all the expectations which its promoters anticipated from it. Several games were afterwards engaged in with great zest. In the evening the pond was illuminated by Wells’s light, and skating under such circumstances had a most picturesque effect.”*

1889, 30th January: The Banffshire Reporter reported as follows: “**BANFF SKATING AND CURLING CLUB.** – *The first social meeting and assembly in connection with this club was held I the St Andrew’s Hall on Wednesday evening. There was a fair attendance. Sheriff Hamilton-Grierson presided. After tea the chairman made a few remarks, dwelling chiefly upon the healthful effects of outdoor recreations, particularly the exhilarating exercise of curling and skating. A well-selected programme was then gone through. Votes of thanks were passed on the ladies, convener, and chairman. An assembly followed, excellent music being supplied by Mr A. G. Smith’s band. The duties of M.C.’S were efficiently discharged by Messrs G. A. Duncan and A. Y. Coutts. Dancing was kept up till an early hour next morning.*”

1889, 1st January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: “**BANFF SKATING AND CURLING POND.** – *The pond of the **Banff Skating and Curling Club** was on Sunday covered by a fine sheet of ice, and anticipations were formed of enjoyment of the games of curling or skating on the following day. Arrangements had previously been made for curling to be resumed yesterday, and Provost Smith had consented to perform the inaugural ceremony for the season. On Sunday night, however Jack Frost disappeared; a thaw, accompanied by showers of rain, set in, and disappointed curlers had to postpone the realization of their anticipations. The pond will be formally opened for the season on the first suitable day.*”

1890, 1st December: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: “**MACDUFF.** – *The members of the **Macduff Curling Club** commenced practice for the season on Friday on their pond at Gellymill. The ice was in good condition.*”

1890, 10th December: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: “**MACDUFF.** – *The annual meeting of the **Macduff Curling Club** was held in the Council Chamber on Monday evening – Provost George presiding. The balance-sheet showed that the club was in a flourishing position. The following office-bearers were appointed: - Patrons, the Duke of Fife and Mr Asher, Q.C., M.P.; president, Provost George; vice-president, Councillor Anderson; committee, Rev, Mr Hunter, Messrs James Gray, William Dawson, and James Bisset. Mr J. J. George was re-elected as secretary. Mr George was appointed as ice-master, and being present accepted the office.*”

1891, 9th January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **“MACDUFF.** – *The members of the Macduff Curling Club had capital practice on Wednesday. They commenced play in the forenoon, and continued until dusk. The ice, although a little rough, was in good condition. In the first game the skips were Messrs John Anderson and Wm. Davidson. The former marked 29, and the latter 22. For the second game Dean of Guild Thom scored 22, and Mr Gray 8.*

1891, 10th January: The Aberdeen Free Press reported as follows: **“THE CURLING BONSPIEL.** – *The annual bonspiel of the Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardineshire Curling Clubs takes place at Aboyne today. A large turn-out of players is expected., the Railway Company having provided a special train at cheap fares. The ice is very strong and in fairly good condition. The arrangements are being carried out by Mr Forgie, secretary of the Aboyne Club.”*

1891, 12th January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **“MACDUFF.** – *The ice on the Gellymill pond on Friday afternoon was in good condition, and fair practice was made. The sips were Mr Gray, 22, and Mr Craib, 15. And also reported: **BANFF v. MACDUFF.** – A match was played between teams of the **Banff and Macduff Clubs** on Saturday afternoon on the pond of the latter. Two rinks. The ice was rather rough, but the game was most enjoyable, and was witnessed by a goodly number of spectators. Mr Souter, Commercial Bank, was skip for Banff, and Mr John Anderson, stone merchant, for Macduff. Banff won the match, the scores being – Banff, 22; and Macduff, 16. A return match has been arranged for, to be played on the Banff pond on Tuesday first.”.*

1891, 27th January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“BANFF -CURLING.** – *A return match between **Banff and Macduff Curling Clubs** was played on the pond of the former Club on Friday, with the result that the Banff players were again successful. At the time agreed on to stop play, the game stood thus – Banff, 13; Macduff, 11: Mr McNab skipped for Banff, and Rev. Mr William Hunter for Macduff.”*

1891, 29th December: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“BANFF – CURLING.** – *On Christmas Day the Banff and Macduff curlers played a match on the Banff club’s pond at Colleonard. Two rinks from each side made a start on first-class ice, about 11.30 in the forenoon, time to be called at 2pm. When the game closed*

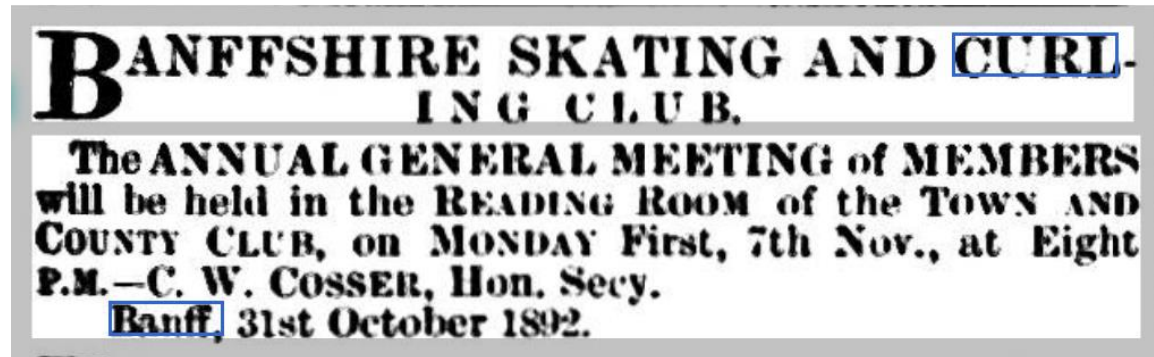
the Macduff players were in advance by 17 points. On one rink Rev. Mr Hunter, the Macduff skip, had 17 against 14 by Mr Souter for Banff, and on the other Mr Anderson for Macduff scored 22, while Mr Baxter for Banff had 8. The pond was also well patronised by skaters, who seemed to enjoy the outing amazingly. Should the weather prove favourable it is contemplated having another match on New Year's Day at Colleopard. Yesterday evening the Wells' light was used at the pond, and from seven o'clock till nine the ice was covered by a merry band of skaters. Games of curling were also enjoyed by the light, and on and around the pond there was a company of about two hundred persons."

1891, 29th December: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser also reported as follows: "**BANFF – SKATING ON THE DEVERON.** – *On Christmas Day the youth of Banff and Macduff enjoyed the somewhat dangerous though none the less pleasing sport of skating on the River Deveron. At the bend near the Games there was good ice of sufficient strength to bear the weight of skaters and sliders. Last year, later in the season, skating was enjoyed in the river almost from the bridge to its mouth, but a continuous and severe frost is required for the formation of ice on the large volume of running water."*

1892, 1st January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: "**MACDUFF** – *A game was played on the pond at Gellymill on Wednesday afternoon with the following result: - Baillie Anderson (skip), 32; Mr Anderson, builder (skip), 7."*

1892, 26th January: The Aberdeen Free Press reported as follows: "**BANFF.** *A team of our local curlers went over the water on Saturday to play a Banff team on their own pond at Colleopard, and the result was again in favour of Macduff – Anderson, Macduff, skip, 12; Souter, Banff, skip, 6"*

1892, 1st November: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser published the following advertisement:



1892, 9th December: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: *“MACDUFF. – The annual meeting of Macduff Curling Club was held on Wednesday evening. Baillie Anderson presided. The account of revenue and expenditure for the past year was submitted and examined and found correct. The secretary was instructed to collect the annual dues. The following office-bearers were appointed: - Patrons – The Duke of Fife and Mr Asher, M.P.; president, Provost George; vice-president, Baillie Anderson. Committee – Messrs Gray, Dawson, McPherson, Bisset, and the Rev. Mr Hunter; secretary, Mr J. J. George; ice-master, Mr G. Ross, who was also appointed a member of the committee. In the afternoon the members enjoyed their first game for the season on the pond at Gellymill. Mr Anderson and Mr Gray were the skips. The ice was in capital condition.”*

1892, 29th December: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: *“MACDUFF. – The ice on the pond of the Macduff Curling Club has this week been in capital condition, and members have engaged in practice almost daily. On Tuesday afternoon a game was played. The skips were Baillie Anderson and Mr James Gray, town-clerk. The former had 10 points and the latter 20.”*

1893, 3rd January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: *“BANFF – CURLING. – The members of the Banff Curling and Skating Club had their first curling game of the season on Thursday. The scores on that day were – Mr D. Haig (skip), 11: Mr D. Baxter (skip), 7. The ice was in capital condition.”*

1893, 10th January: The Banffshire and General Advertiser published an anonymous readers letter as follows: “**BANFF SKATING AND CURLING CLUB.** – SIR, - We still style ourselves the Banff Skating and Curling Club; but those in authority should really drop one half of the title, unless they are to be more considerate of skaters who are not also curlers. Everything possible is done at the pond to provide good sport for curlers, who are provided with space for two rinks; while we poor skaters must content ourselves with moving monotonously up and down a small piece of rough, ill swept ice. A great part of the pond – where curlers do not congregate – has never been swept at all. The Committee – if there is one – seem indifferent; the curlers have room enough. It is hard to see why our interests should be thus neglected. Numerically, we are the stronger portion of the Club, and are thus, financially, its principal supporters. Skating days – like curling days – are usually few and far between in Banff. Let the gentlemen of the Committee bestir themselves to secure that both sections of the Club shall have full benefit of the present favourable weather, I am, etc., X., 7th January 1893.”

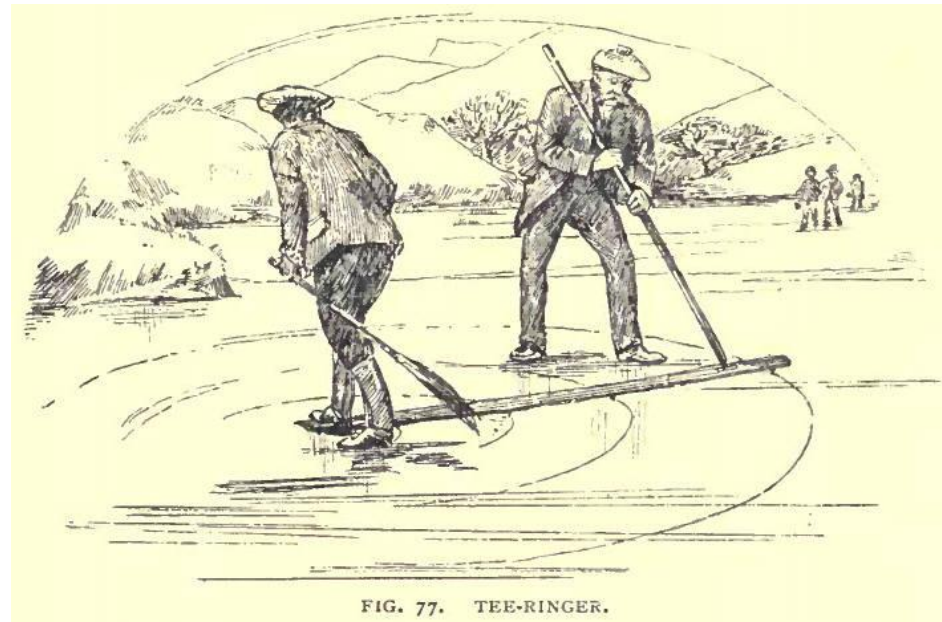


FIG. 77. TEE-RINGER.

Marking the ice (History of Curling by John Kerr, 1890).



1904 map showing the Curling Pond, Macduff. (Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland).

Size of the Gellymill, Macduff Curling Pond, scales to approximately 110 feet long x 60 feet wide.

1893, 17th January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“BANFF CURLING AND SKATING CLUB. – SIR,** - The complaint made by your correspondent ‘X’ is a very proper one, and it is to be hoped will receive the attention it deserves. At the same time, it is hardly fair to say that undue attention has been given to the curling members, as they only use the pond for a very short time, and not every day. Only on two occasions have they had a double rink; and I am sure if the skaters had anything in the way of a competition, the curlers would be delighted to make way for it. It should also be borne in mind that the curling members have been the backbone of the Club, and at present have nearly £30 worth of stones lying at the pond. My object in writing, however, is not to set one party up

against the other as having better claims to attention, when rather to endorse the sentiment that the pond should be kept thoroughly free from snow when skating or curling is to be had; and I hope Mr Crosser, the secretary, will in future employ a sufficient and vigorous staff of the 'unemployed' to sweep the ice when necessary. I am sure the pond has been the source of much pleasure to the young folks during the last two or three weeks, and we are all at one in thinking that there should be nothing but pleasure in connection with it. MEMBER, January 11, 1893.

1893, 7th November: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: ***"BANFF.*** – *The annual meeting of the Banff Skating and Curling Club was called for yesterday evening, but owing to unavoidable absence of the skips, the meeting was adjourned till Monday evening the 13th curt."*

1893, 28th November: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: ***"MACDUFF - THE*** annual meeting of the Curling Club was held in the Council Chamber here on Tuesday evening. Present – Baillie Anderson. Messrs James Gray, William Dawson, and J. J. George, together with Mr Haig and Mr C. A. Simpson of Banff Club – Baillie Anderson presides. Mr J. J. George, the honorary secretary and treasurer, submitted the annual balance sheet of the Club, which showed a favourable balance. The secretary and treasurer was instructed to collect the annual dues. Office-bearers were appointed as follows: - Patrons, Duke of Fife, Mr Asher, Q.C., M.P.; president, Provost George; vice-president, Baillie Anderson; council – Messrs Gray, Hunter, Dawson, Bisset, and McPherson; secretary and treasurer, J. J. George; ice master, Mr George Ross, who was appointed member of council 'ex officio'. A deputation from the Banff Curling Club, consisting of Messrs Haig and C. A. Simpson, was then received. Mr Haig, on behalf of the deputation, intimated that they waited on the Macduff Club for the purpose of making arrangements whereby the opening of the playing of the season should take the form of a match between Banff and Macduff Clubs, after which the members might dine together in the evening, and in connection therewith that the ceremony of initiating the members present into the mysteries of curling. The suggestion was considered, and it became the unanimous resolution of the meeting to co-operate with the Banff Club in the matter. Baillie Anderson and Mr J. J. George were appointed as a committee to meet

and arrange with the Banff Committee as to a date and otherwise. A letter from Mr C. W. Cosser, dated 16th December 1892, was submitted. The letter was in the following terms: - Dear Sir, - At our annual meeting it was moved by D. Baxter, Esq., that the members of the Macduff Curling Club be made honorary members of the Banff Curling Club in the hope that the members of the Banff Curling Club be made honorary members of the Macduff Curling Club. The objects of the motion are – 1st, that the members of either Club may play on either pond as they desire, but that the members of say Banff Club have no control over Macduff Pond in any way whatever; 2nd, in case of matches it would be easy to get together two teams. I shall be glad to hear from you in a day or two. Yours faithfully, Charles W. Cosser. – J. J. George, Esq. The secretary was instructed to intimate to Mr Cosser that the suggestion had been unanimously adopted. It was resolved to reduce the entry money to 10s. 6d.

1893, 23rd November: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **“MACDUFF CLUB.** – *The annual business meeting of Macduff Curling Club was held on Tuesday evening. Baillie Anderson presided. Mr J. J. George, the secretary, submitted the annual financial statement, which showed a favourable balance. Office-bearers were appointed as follows: - Patrons, the Duke of Fife and Mr Asher, M.P.; president, Provost George; vice-president, Baillie Anderson; committee - Messrs James Gray, Wm. Dawson, James Bisset, P. H. McPherson, and the Rev. William Hunter; secretary and treasurer, Mr J. J. George; ice master, Mr G. R. Ross, who was appointed a member of the committee ‘ex officio’. A deputation from the Banff Curling Club was received. Mr Haig, on behalf of the deputation, intimated that they waited upon the Macduff Club for the purpose of making arrangements whereby the opening of the play for the season should take the form of a match between Banff and Macduff Clubs, after which the members might dine together in the evening; and in connection therewith that there should be a ceremony of initiation. The suggestion was considered, and it became the unanimous resolution of the meeting to co-operate with the Banff Club on the matter. Baillie Anderson and the secretary were appointed as a committee to meet and arrange with the Banff committee as to the date. It was resolved to reduce the entry money to half a guinea.”*

1893, 28th November: The Elgin Courant, and Morayshire Advertiser reported much the same as above, however they also stated that the meeting was held in the *“Council Chambers on Wednesday evening”, “ice master, Mr G. Rose”, “A*

deputation from the Banff Curling Club, consisted of Messrs Hay and C. A. Simpson, was then received” and “the ceremony of initiating members present into the mysteries of curling.”

***1893, 9th May:** The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: “**BANFF – CURLER’S INITIATION.** – The first annual dinner of the **Banff and Macduff Curling Clubs** was held in the Fife Arms Hotel, Banff, on Friday evening. Mr George of Ashlea presided, and Baillie Anderson, Macduff was croupier, and under the presidency of these gentlemen a very pleasant evening was spent by the thirty knights of the broom, representative of the two clubs, who met to be initiated into the rites of the ancient order of curlers. After dinner, in which ‘**beef and greens**’ had its time-honoured place of prominence, a short toast list was gone through. The Chairman proposed the usual loyal toasts, and the Croupier that of the Army, Navy, and Reserve forces, on behalf of whom Major Ewart and Captain J. J. George replied. The latter in his acknowledgement took occasion to remark that Major Ewart had been connected with the Volunteers for many years, and to him was greatly due the high efficiency of the artillery branch of the service connected with the locality. Mr Wyllie, in proposing ‘Neighbouring Clubs’, referred to the social qualities the exercise of the game of curling was fitted to foster, and coupled the toast with the name of a well-known ‘keen curler’ Dr Hay, Fergie, who responded. Mr Jas. Forbes, solicitor, proposed the Town and Trade of Macduff in a humorous speech, in which he referred to the important shipping and commercial interests of the town, and to the fact that at some future time there might be heard at Macduff Station the words ‘change for Fraserburgh’. Its inhabitants were well known for their enterprise, one of its natives having recently been in a position to make forenoon calls on Lobengula, while Macduff curlers had hitherto held their own against the brethren in Banff. The toast was acknowledged by the Croupier, who subsequently proposed the toast of the Banff Club, and in doing so expressed the hope that more gentlemen might become connected with both. Mr C. W. Cosser replied. Mr Gray, Macduff, proposed the Town and Trade of Banff, and referred in a humorous strain to the superiority of Macduff over Banff in the ‘roaring game’. Dean of Guild Lyon, who responded, said, in his experience, the trade of Banff had increased threefold. Mr Haig, in proposing the Macduff Club, said it would be admitted that the **Banff Club** owed its continued existence largely to the encouragement and sympathy it had received*

*from the members of the **Macduff Club**. A great many difficulties were naturally encountered during the first year or two of the Club's existence, and to these they might have succumbed had it not been for the fact that on the other side of the water they had to contend on frequent occasions with curlers who were really enthusiastic in keeping the game agoing. The friendly rivalry that had thus been created had been of benefit to both, and Mr Haig took advantage to thank the **Macduff Club** for the kindness and hospitality shown to Banff members on all occasions. Mr Dawson, Macduff, responded, stating that the two clubs were, for all practical purposes, one. Mr G. M. Hossack proposed the health of the Chairman, who in responding, said he had had great pleasure in meeting so many enthusiastic curlers that evening. Thereafter, those present were initiated into the brotherhood of curlers, Dr Hay being 'my Lord President' of the court, and Mr Wyllie his officer. A pleasant evening was spent, and the meeting, before separating, passed a vote of thanks to Mr Cosser for the excellent arrangements he had made for the meeting, and to Miss Shearer for promoting in every possible way the comfort of the guests."*

1894, 25th January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: "**BANFF - CURLING CLUB DINNER.** – On Friday evening the members of **Banff Skating and Curling Club**, along with a number of curlers from Macduff and other neighbouring districts, dined in the Fife Arms Hotel, Banff. Covers were laid for about 40 persons. Dr Hay, Forgue, occupied the chair, and Baillie Anderson, Macduff, was croupier. A most enjoyable evening was spent."

1894, 7th November: The Aberdeen Evening Express reported as follows: "The **Banff Skating and Curling Club** held their annual meeting on Monday night, when office-bearers were appointed for the season. It was resolved to alter the date of the annual meeting from the first Monday of November to the 20th day of September. It was intimated that the club has been matched against the **Glass Club** in the **Royal Caledonian** List."

1894, 8th November: The Banffshire Advertiser reported as follows: "**BANFF. – CURLING CLUB.** – The Skating and Curling Club held their annual meeting on Monday night, when office-bearers were appointed for the season. It was resolved to alter the date of the annual meeting from the first Monday of November to the 20th day of September. It was intimated that the club had been matched against the **Glass Club** in the **Royal Caledonian** List."

1894, 12th December: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: “**MACDUFF CLUB.** – *The annual meeting of Macduff Curling Club was held on Monday evening. Baillie Anderson presided. Mr J. J. George, honorary secretary, submitted the annual balance sheet, which was approved. The following office-bearers were appointed: - Patrons, the Duke of Fife, Mr Asher, M.P.; president, Provost George; vice-president, Baillie Anderson; council, Messrs Jas. Bisset, James Gray, Wm. Dawson, and W. Milne; secretary and treasurer, Mr J. J. George; ice master, Mr George Ross. A committee was appointed to meet a committee from the Banff Club to make arrangements for the annual dinner, which this year falls to be held at Macduff. A letter from the secretary of the Banff and Moray county bonspiel was read, dealing with the resolution of the meeting of representatives of curling clubs held at Elgin to hold a bonspiel annually at Dufftown. It was resolved to send representatives. A circular relative to the Dyce and Aboyne provincial bonspiel was also submitted. It was resolved, in view of the resolution to go to Drummair, not to entertain the idea, meantime to go to Dyce or Aboyne. It was remitted to Mr Dawson and Mr Ross to have the annual cleaning and the usual preliminary attention to the pond and pipe track at once looked to, so as to have things in readiness for the season.*”

1895, 22nd January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: “**CURLING CLUB DINNER.** – *The annual dinner of the Banff and Macduff Curling Clubs was held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall on Friday evening. Last year, the dinner took place in Banff, but, on the present occasion, Macduff was the place chosen for the annual social gathering of the curlers of the two towns. The chair was occupied by Provost George; and Mr Souter, bank agent, Banff, acted as croupier. Amongst other gentlemen present were Mr F. George, county clerk; Mr Wyllie, bank agent, Banff, Mr Haig, chief constable, Rev. Mr Coupar, Macduff; Mr Bisset, Kilnshade; Captain Wilson, harbourmaster; Ex-provost Dallas; Mr Warrack, Netherwood; Mr J. J. George, town clerk; Mr Cosser, inspector of poor, Banff; Mr Dawson, Sunnyhill; Mr Henderson, National Telephone Company; Mr Ross, slater; Mr Watson, solicitor; Mr Jeffrey, fishery officer; and Mr Gray, town chamberlain. After dinner, which included the orthodox ‘beef and greens’, and which was excellently purveyed by Mr Williams of the Fife Arms Hotel, the chairman proposed the usual loyal toasts with much poetic fervour and patriotic eloquence. The Croupier gave ‘The Navy, the Army, and the Reserve Forces’ in a speech characterised by*

*dignity and grace. Major George, on behalf of the force with which Captain Warrack and he were (and with which Ex-Provost Dallas had been) connected, said it was impossible to reply to the toast as often as he had done without getting a little Jingoistic: and he announced, amid prolonged applause, that both Captain Warrack and he were ready to die for their country, although he hoped the day when they would be summoned to do so was very far distant – a qualification and modification of the previous statement which seemed to evoke some murmurs of dissent. Mr Dawson gave the toast of the evening – ‘Curling’, claiming that curling was pre-eminently the national game of Scotland. If anyone suffered from a super-abundance of dignity, the curling rink was the place to get rid of it. (Hear, hear, and laughter). He had never seen ill-feeling at a curling match; but had often noticed that the losers would come along and shake hands in quite a friendly fashion, and, if they had anything in their pockets, would stand you a nip. (Laughter). In conclusion, he dwelt upon the value of curling as a means of bringing together the people of Banff and Macduff between whom there used to be a great deal of rivalry. That seemed to have utterly disappeared. They were practically one club now, and the best of friends. (Applause). The toast was duly honoured with the customary cry of **‘Soop her up’**. Mr Wyllie, in reply, said he was sure there was no game that promoted so much kindness and fellow feeling as curling, which produced no rivalry, and certainly no disputes. In the experience of those present, they had had an umpire on two occasions wandering about the ice the whole day to keep himself warm, because he had nothing else to do. (Laughter.) Mr Gray gave the health of the croupier whom he described as a perfect skip, and a model gentleman. The toast was duly honoured, the company singing, ‘For he’s a jolly good curler’. Mr Souter having acknowledged Mr Haig gave the health of the chairman, whose virtues and genial qualities he loudly extolled, saying he was sure that if the whole county of Banff had been searched, a more acceptable chairman could not have been got. The toast was received with great Cordiality; and the Provost, in replying, delighted the company by recounting some racy and original curling anecdotes, which will, no doubt, be duly recorded in the next ‘Curlers’ Annual’. After the toast list had been disposed of, songs were given by J. J. George and Mr Dawson, and several recitations were given by Mr Henderson, all of which ‘took’ immensely. In the course of the evening a ‘Curlers’ Court’ was held, with all the solemnities usual on such an occasion. The*

representatives of the press did not witness the ceremony, the procedure of which is not explained in Professor Dove Wilson's 'Court Practice', and which is believed to be even more esoteric than the classical Eleusinian mysteries. It is understood, however, that the ceremony is of a quasi-ecclesiastical character, as it was intimated afterwards that the 'collection' which was made is to be devoted to various charitable institutions in both towns."

1895: The Aberdeen Press and Journal - Saturday 4th March 1933 republished this photograph from 1895:



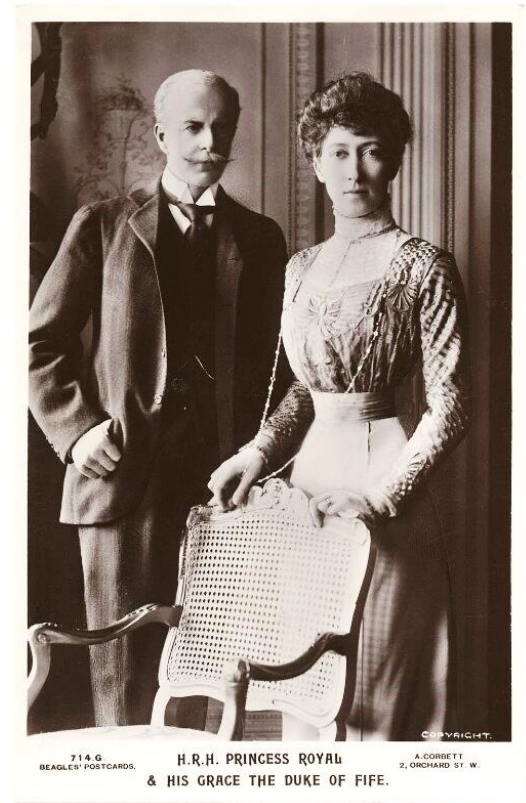
BANFF V. TURRIFF. – *A curling match in progress on the frozen Deveron in 1895. This was one of the interesting pictures illustrating Mr J. R. Gordon's lecture on "Old Banff", which he gave in Banff 2nd March 1933.*

1895, 29th January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: ***"BANFF – CURLING.* – On Saturday, a game was played on the Colleonard pond by the Banff curlers. The ice was somewhat rough, but on the whole a good game was enjoyed. Mr Grieve, of the Fife Arms Hotel, who is an enthusiastic player, and must prove to be a great acquisition to the Banff Club, skipped against Mr Souter. The players were Messrs Grieve, Warrack, Morison, and Haig, who scored 4; and Messrs Souter, Baxter, Forbes, and Shirreffs, whose score stood at 11."**

1895, 12th February: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: ***"BANFF – CURLING.* – A game was played on the Banff pond yesterday. The ice was very uncertain, but the game was much enjoyed. The following was the result: - Skip, Mr Haig – 17; and skip, Mr Wyllie – 9."**

1895, 26th February: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: ***"BANFF – CURLING.* – On Wednesday, a curling match was arranged to be played on the Deveron at Banff Bridge between the Aberchirder and Banff Clubs. In consequence of the thaw, however, play on the river was impossible, and the match took place at the curling pond at Colleonard instead. There were two rinks aside, the skips being – for Banff, Mr J. F. Souter and Mr R. Wyllie; and for Aberchirder – Mr Cowie, Turtory, and Mr Morison, yr. of Culvie. The game was keenly contested; and at the close the Aberchirder rinks were found to be leading by five points."**

1895, 24th September: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: ***"BANFF CURLING CLUB.* – On Friday evening, the annual meeting of the members of the **Banff Curling Club** was held in the reading room of the Town and County Club. Mr J. F. Souter, bank agent, presided, and there were present – Messrs R. Wyllie, bank agent; Geo. Shearer, accountant; C. W. Cosser, honorary secretary; Geo. C. Smith, Elm Bank Cottage; John Forbes, High Street; G. G. Simpson,**



*Water Path; and J. Simpson, George Street. There was submitted statement of income and expenditure for the past year, showing that there had been drawings from various sources to the amount of £13 0s6d., of which, after an expenditure of £11 9s. 9d., there was still on hand £1 10s. 9d. There was, however, according to the state of the funds, a balance of £7 against the Club. It was agreed to ask His Grace the Duke of Fife and H.R.H. Princess Louise Duchess of Fife to take office as patron and patroness of the Club, and the following were appointed office-bearers for the year, namely – J. F. Souter, president; R. Wyllie, vice-president; John Forbes, and G. G. Simpson, representative members; Council of management – T. Simpson, J. B. Grieve, J. Garden, John Forbes, D. Baxter, G. C. Smith; skips – A. O. Morison, J. B. Grieve, J. F. Souter, and R. Wyllie; ice masters – T. Simpson and J. Forbes; Chaplain – Rev. W. S. Bruce. It was explained that the Club had been balloted by the **Royal Caledonian Club** to compete this year against Fochabers for the district medal, and the following names were intimated as members of the **Royal Caledonian Club**: - Ordinary members - T. Simpson, D. Baxter, J. F. Souter, John Forbes, C. W. Cosser, G. A. Duncan, Robert Wyllie, G.C. Smith, David Haig, A. O. Morison, John Garden, James Forbes, J. B. Grieve, R. G. Shirreffs, G. C. Simpson, Robert Hardy. Honorary Members – Provost Ramsay, Francis George, G. M. Hossack, Alex. Colville, James Morrison, Alex Watt, Rev, Father Bisset, J. W. Simpson, H. Munro, C.A. Simpson, and Wm. Graham. Mr Wyllie moved that there be no admission to the pond except to members or those introduced by members. Mr G. C. Smith seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to. It was agreed that the fee of one penny at present charged against each member for the sweeping of the pond should be done away with. Mr Cosser resigned the offices of honorary secretary and treasurer, naming as his successor Mr Geo. Shearer was appointed to the offices. A vote of thanks to Mr Souter for presiding closed the meeting.”*

96, 21st October: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: “**CURLING – BANFF** – The annual meeting of **Banffshire Skating and Curling Club** was held at Banff on Monday night. – Mr J. F. Souter presiding. The accounts for the past year, submitted by Mr George Shearer, showed the club to be in an improved position financially. The Duke of Fife and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Fife were re-elected patron and patroness, and office-bearers were appointed as follows, viz.:- President, Mr Robert Wyllie; vice-president, Mr A. O. Morison; representative members, Mr John Forbes

and Mr J. F. Souter; secretary and treasurer, Mr George Shearer; committee – Messrs T. A. Simpson, J. B. Grieve, James Forbes, D. Baxter, J. Garden, an G. C, Smith; ice masters, Mr T. A. Simpson and Mr R. Wyllie; skips – Mr Baxter, Mr Grieve, Mr Souter, and Mr Wyllie; chaplain, Rev. W. S. Bruce.” (Mr James F. Souter was agent for the Commercial Bank in Banff).

1897, 6th February: The Northern Scot and Moray & Nairn Express reported as follows: **“Curling Match – On Wednesday the competition between the Banff and Fochabers Curling Clubs for the Caledonian Curling Club’s silver medal took place on the lake, Gordon Castle. Two rinks were played, resulting in Fochabers being the winner by 35 points to 27. The details of the play were as follows: -**

BANFF		FOCHABERS	
Mr Sutor (skip)	8	Mr Cuthbert (skip)	22
Mr Wylie (skip)	19	Mr Bailey (skip)	13
	27		35



Rev. William Straton Bruce. (John Souter).

1897, 16th February: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“ABERCHIRDER – CURLING. – On Friday a match was played on the Aberchirder rink between teams of the Marnoch and Macduff curling clubs. The ice was very keen. The result was a gain of 3 for Marnoch. Marnoch – Smith, skip, 25; Morison, 23, Macduff – Anderson, skip 20; Grey, 25.”**

1897, 24th February: The Banffshire Reporter reported as follows: **“BANFF CURLING CLUB DINNER. – There was held in the Fife Arms Hotel, Banff, on Friday evening, the annual “beef and greens” of the combined Banff and Macduff Curling Clubs. The meeting was largely attended by members of the Clubs of the two towns, and the proceedings, which were most cordial throughout, were thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The chair was occupied by Mr Wyllie, agent, Union Bank, Banff, and the croupier was Major J. J. George, Macduff.”**

1897, 21st September: The following notice was published in the Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser:

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the BANFF SKATING and CURLING CLUB
 will be held in the READING ROOM, TOWN AND
 COUNTY CLUB, Banff, TONIGHT, at 8.30 o'clock.
 GEO SHEARER, Hon. Sec.

1898, 27th September: The following notice was published in the Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser: “

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the BANFF SKATING and CURLING CLUB
 will be held in the READING ROOM, Town and County
 Club, Banff, on Monday, 3rd prox., at 8.30PM
 JOHN FORBES, Secretary.

1899, 27th January: The Elgin Courant, and Morayshire Advertiser reported as follows: **“FOCHABERS.** – *During the past day or two the various ice houses in the district have been getting stocked with ice. The local curling club had their first game on the Gordon Castle Pond on Wednesday, and yesterday three rinks were in full swing all day. Yesterday the Banff and Keith Clubs met on neutral ice at the Lake Gordon Castle, and played for the **Caledonian silver medal.** The scores were – Banff, 22; Keith, 28. Scores –*

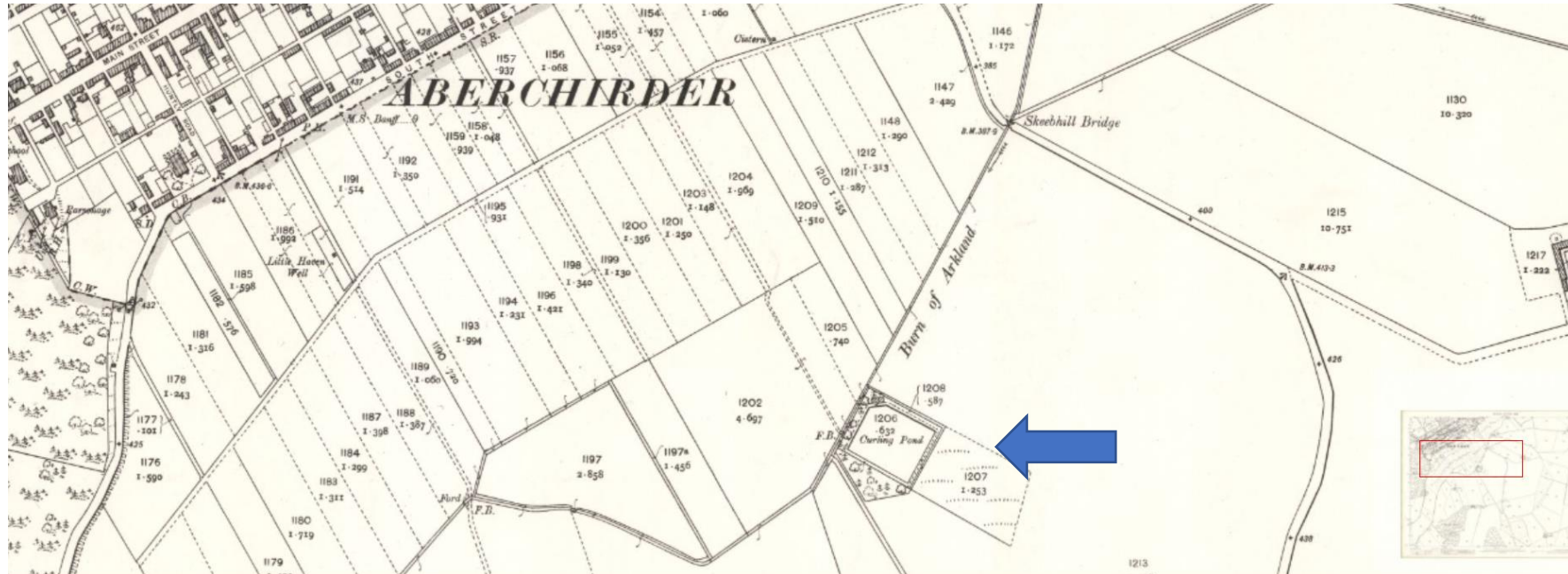
<i>Keith</i>		<i>Banff</i>	
<i>Skip Ward</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Skip Morrison</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Skip Currie</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Skip Baxter</i>	<i>12</i>
	<i>28</i>		<i>22</i>

1899, 30th January: The Dundee Courier reported as follows: *“CURLING. - Banff v. Macduff. – The Banff and Macduff Clubs held their annual curling match on the Macduff pond. Two teams played, skipped respectively by Mr John Anderson for Macduff and Mr Baxter for Banff, and by J. Dawson, Macduff, and Mr Wyllie, Banff. After a four hours’ game, the match resulted in a win for Macduff over both rinks by 27 points.”*

1899, 31st January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: *“CURLING – BANFF V. MARNOCHE. – A match was played on Friday between the teams from Banff and Marnoch clubs on the Aberchirder rink, the weather being fine and the ice in splendid condition. Scores –*

Marnoch		Banff	
Mr Cowie, skip	17	Mr A. O. Morrison	8
Mr J. O. Morison	19	Mr Renton	6
	36		14

*Majority for Marnoch, 22 points. The Marnoch club, which at Keith on Wednesday gained the **Caledonian District Medal** by 10 points, have thus been adding to their laurels.”*



1904 map showing the Aberchirder Curling Pond. (Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland).

The Aberchirder Curling Pond scales to approximately 150 feet x 180 feet.

1899, 4th February: The Aberdeen People's Journal reported as follows: **"ABERCHIRDER – Marnoch and Banff Curling Clubs had a game at Aberchirder on the 27th ult. Marnoch won by 36 points to 14."**

1899, 8th February: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **"BANFF. - Ill luck has attended the members of the Banff Curling Club this season. They lost all the three matches which they played against Keith, Marnoch, and Macduff."**

1900, 16th February: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **"Banff v. Macduff. - On Wednesday a friendly game was played between teams representing the Banff and Macduff Curling Clubs on the latter's ponds, the result being a win for Banff by 15 points. The scores were: - Banff skips, R. Wylie 16, R. G. Shirreffs 18 – 36; Macduff skips, W. Dawson 6, J. Gray 15 – 21."**

1900, 25th September: *The following notice was published in the Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser: “*

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the BANFF SKATING and CURLING CLUB
 will be held in the READING ROOM, Town and County
 Club, Banff, on Monday, 1st prox., at 8.30PM
 JOHN FORBES, Secretary.
 24th September 1900.

1902, 8th February: The Aberdeen People’s Journal reported as follows: *“Macduff and Banff Curling Clubs played two rinks on Saturday afternoon on the Macduff Pond at Gellymill. The result was as follows: - Banff, 19; Macduff, 18. The ice was in fair condition, and there was a large number of spectators.”*

1902, 12th February: *The Banffshire Reporter reported as follows: “CULLEN. – On Monday teams representing the Banff and Keith curling clubs met at Cullen, and held a competition for the district medal on the pond at Cullen House. The result was a win for Keith by 9 points.”*

1902, 13th February: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: *“Banff v. Macduff. – Teams representing these towns played a friendly game on the Colleonard Pond, Banff on Tuesday. The ice was very rough, and playing was pretty much like tossing a penny. The game finished thus: -*

<i>BANFF</i>		<i>MACDUFF</i>	
<i>A. O. Morison (skip)</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>J. Anderson (skip)</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>R. Wyllie (skip)</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>W. Dawson (skip)</i>	<i>8</i>
	<i>22</i>		<i>12</i>

Banff winning by 10 points.”

1902, 20th February: The Banffshire Advertiser reported as follows: **“BANFF. – CURLING. – Macduff v. Banff – These clubs met at Gellymill pond on Saturday, and played a match, two rinks aside. The play resulted in a victory for Macduff by 3 points. Scores: - Macduff, 27; Banff, 24.”**

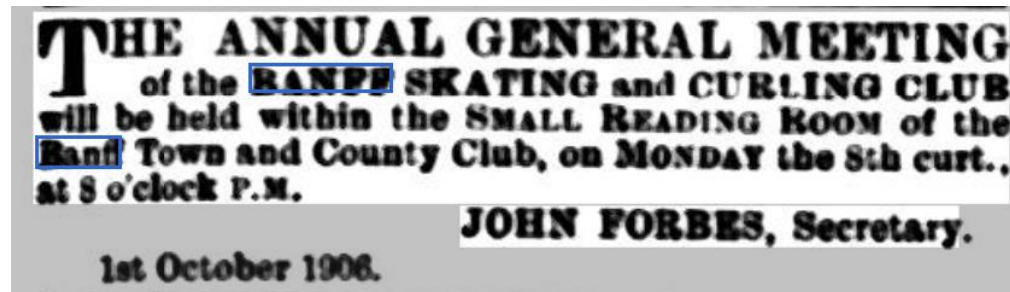
1902, 7th October: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“BANFF – CURLING CLUB. – Last night, the annual meeting of the *Banff Curling Club* was held in the Town and County Club Buildings – Mr R. Wyllie presiding. The accounts of the Club for the year were submitted by the treasurer, Mr John Forbes, showing a balance of £5 5s. 7d. at the credit of the Club. The accounts were approved, and thereafter the following office-bearers were elected: - Patron – The Duke of Fife; Patroness – Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Fife; President – Mr R. G. Shirreffs; Vice-president – Mr James Chisholm; representative members, Mr W. J. Watson and Mr G. C. Smith; chaplain, Rev. A. Boyd; secretary and treasurer, Mr John Forbes; ice-masters, Mr T. A. Simpson and Mr C. A. Simpson; and skips Messrs R. Wyllie, D. Baxter, A. O. Morison, and R. G. Shirreffs. On the motion of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr Forbes for his services as secretary and treasurer during the year, and the meeting ended with a vote of thanks passed to Mr Wyllie for presiding.”**

1903, 16th January: The Huntly Express reported as follows: **“ABERCHIRDER. – A curling match was played between members of the *Banff and Marnoch Curling Clubs* on the Marnoch Pond on Wednesday. The ice was excellent, and the game proved most enjoyable. The skips from Banff were A. O. Morison and R. Sherriffs, and Marnoch J. O. Morison and D. Stewart. The result was a gain for Marnoch by 18 points.”**

1903, 17th October: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **“BANFF – The annual general meeting of *Banff Curling and Skating Club* was held in the Reading Room of the Town and County Club, Banff on Wednesday evening (14th). The treasurer (and secretary), Mr John Forbes, High Street, submitted the accounts of the revenue and expenditure in connection with the club for the past year, which were approved by the meeting. The following were**

elected office-bearers for the ensuing year; - Mr James Chisholm, Fife Arms Hotel; vice-president, Mr G. C. Smith, Elmbank Cottage; representative members, Mr Robert Wyllie, bank agent, and Mr Charles S. McPherson, rector, Banff Burgh School, skips, Messrs Robert Wyllie, A. O. Morison, bank agent; D. Baxter, bank agent, and R. G. Shirreffs, sheriff clerk depute."

1906, 2nd October: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser published the following notice:



1906, 9th October: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **"BANFF – SKATING AND CURLING CLUB.** – *The annual meeting of the **Banff Skating and Curling Club** was held in the Town and County Club building last night. Mr G. C. Smith was in the chair. The treasurer, Mr A. F. Spence submitted a financial statement, showing a balance in favour of the Club at the close of the year. Office-bearers were elected as follows: - Patron, His Grace the Duke of Fife, K.T.: patroness, the Princess Royal; president, Mr William MacIntosh; vice-president Mr C. S. McPherson; representative members, Messrs Robert Wyllie and C. S. McPherson; chaplain, Rev. A. Boyd; secretary, Mr John Forbes; treasurer, Mr A. F. Spence; ice-masters Messrs T. A. Simpson and C. A. Simpson. The committee of management was reappointed."*

1907, 4th February: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **"MACDUFF v. BANFF,** - *A friendly match was played on Friday afternoon on the Macduff pond by members of the **Banff and Macduff Curling Clubs**. The result – a win for Macduff – was as follows: - Macduff – Ex-Baillie Anderson, 9; Banff – Mr A. O. Morrison, 4; Macduff – Mr G. R. Ross, 15; and Mr Wyllie, Banff, 8."*

1907, 25th February: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **“CURLERS’ DINNER.** – *The members of the Banff and Macduff Curling Clubs met at dinner in the Fife Arms Hotel on Friday evening. This dinner used to be an annual event, but some years ago it was allowed to lapse. However, in view of the brisk season the clubs have had, it was thought this was an opportune time to resuscitate the gathering, and accordingly negotiations took place, and the meeting on Friday evening was the result. Forty gentlemen, the two clubs being almost equally represented, sat down to dinner purveyed in Mr Chisholm’s usual excellent style. Provost Alexander, Banff presided, and John James George, town clerk, Macduff, acted as croupier. After an appropriate toast list had been submitted, a curlers “court” was held, when Mr Robert Wyllie performed the part of “my lord”. Great amusement was derived from the initiation of new members, who, having been invested in their “uniforms,” were solemnly put on oath. In the course of the evening several of the company contributed songs and stories suitable to the occasion, and altogether a pleasant time was spent. Before dispersing, it was decided that the next dinner should be held in Macduff.*”

For more information regarding the **‘Curlers’ Court’** see the book ‘Curling History’ by John Kerr published in 1890 on www.electricscotland.com

1907, 8th October: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser published the following notice:

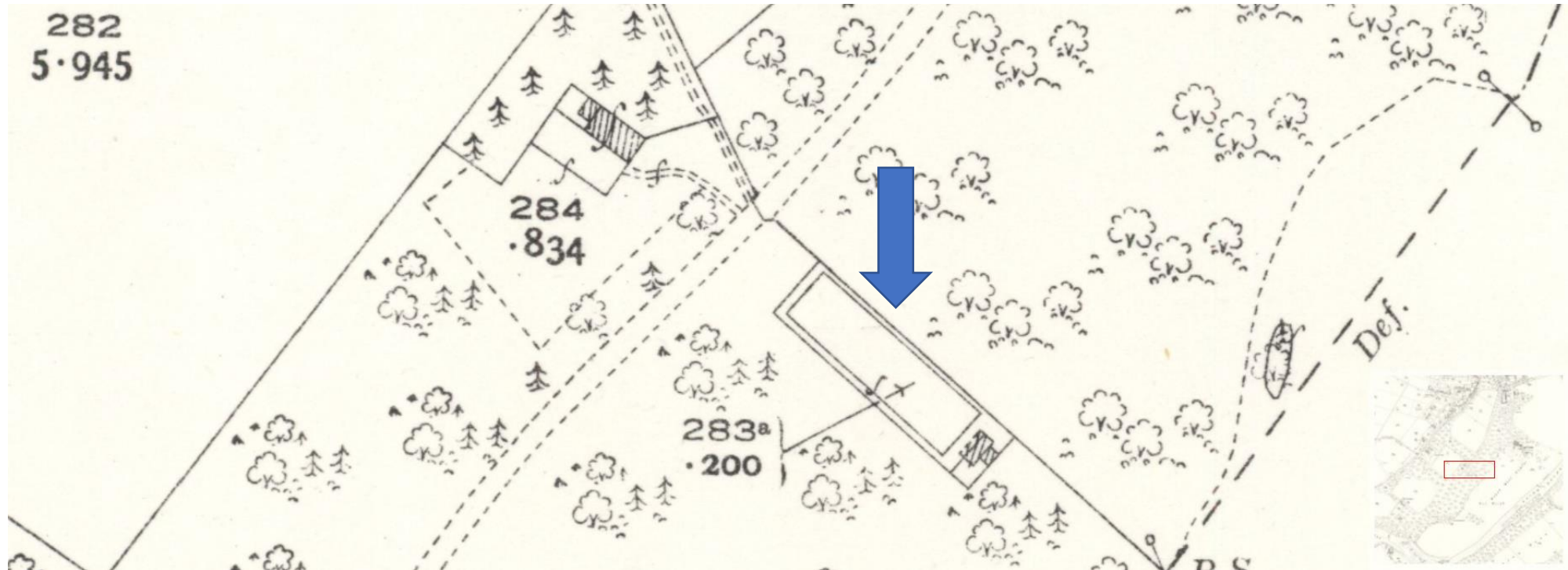
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the **BANFF** SKATING and CURLING CLUB
will be held within the SMALL READING ROOM of the
Banff Town and County Club on TUESDAY (TO-DAY) the
8th inst., at 8 o’clock P. M.
JOHN FORBES, Secretary.
7th October 1907.

1907, 12th November: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: ***“BANFF, - CURLING CLUB.*** – A meeting of the members of the **Banff and Macduff Curling Clubs** was held in the Fife Arms Hotel on Saturday for the purpose of considering the advisability of amalgamating the clubs. Ex-Baillie Anderson, Macduff presided. After an interchange of opinion, it was unanimously resolved to amalgamate, and it was decided that play this season would take place on the Gellymill pond. It was remitted to a committee to make arrangements for acquiring a suitable pond by next season.”

1908, 7th January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows; ***“CURLING.*** – For the first time this season curlers had an opportunity of indulging in the game last week, and from Wednesday till Saturday the Gellymill pond was largely patronised. The ice was in good condition, and many games were enjoyed. The pond is at present being used by the Macduff and Banff players – the two clubs having amalgamated lately – but an effort is being made to secure a larger and better pond in the immediate neighbourhood for the use of the two towns.”

1908, 3rd July: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: ***“BANFF. – PROPOSED NEW CURLING POND.*** – A meeting of the **Banff and Macduff Curling Club** was held on Wednesday evening – ex-Baillie Anderson, Macduff, presiding. In regard to the proposed new pond, it was reported that the Duke of Fife had expressed his willingness to grant a site within his policies near the laundry upon very favourable terms. The pond will be made of tarmacadam, and a handsome pavilion will be erected, and arrangements are to be commenced soon to have the work carried out. General satisfaction was expressed in regard to the satisfactory way the negotiations had been carried out. A deputation was appointed to confer with the Duff House Trustees regarding gas and water privileges.”

1908, 11th July: The Aberdeen People’s Journal reported as follows: ***“The members of the Banff and Macduff Curling Club*** have been successful in getting a site for the new pond, the Duke of Fife having consented to its being made within his private policies, near Duff House. The Town Council has granted permission for a supply of water to the pond.”



Map of 1930 showing the Banff and Macduff Curling Ice Rink. (Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland).
283 – Ice Rink and pavilion, 284- Former Laundry of Duff House.

Scaling the rink off the map makes it approximately 50 feet wide by 290 feet long (including the pavilion building at its east end), so it was a sizable rink.

1908, 16th December: The Banffshire Reporter reported as follows: **“BANFF – CURLING.** – *The first game of the season was played on the new tar-macadam pond of the **Banff and Macduff Curling Club** on Thursday, between sides skipped by Messrs R. Wyllie and R. G. Shirreffs. The ice, which was quickly obtained with a minimum of frost by means of the spray, was found to be quite sufficient and good, and the game, which was close throughout, ended in a win for Mr Shirreffs’s side by 21 points to 20. The pond has also been tried in the evening by gaslight, when the illumination of the rinks quite came up to the expectations of the promoters.”*

1909, 6th January: In a large advertisement for Duff House in the Banffshire Reporter it read as follows: “... and for the winter time skating and curling may be enjoyed at the pond which has already been constructed by **the Banff and Macduff Curling Club**. The remarkable thing about this pond is that, by a spraying process, one degree of frost is sufficient to form a coating of playable ice on the rinks.”

1909, 23rd February: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: “**BANFF. – CURLING.** – Since the institution of the **Banff and Macduff Curling Club** and the provision of a joint pond, the votaries of the “roaring game” in the locality have enjoyed many pleasant afternoons on the ice. The spraying system which is in use at the pond has proved a great success, responding readily to a slight frost and giving a good playing surface. Both on Friday night and on Saturday night play was engaged in under the gas-light, and was continued up to eleven o’clock. With the greater facilities now available for enjoying a game the membership of the Club has largely increased, and at the annual supper of the Club, which took place in the Fife Arms Hotel last night, there was an attendance of about fifty members and others. The chair was occupied by Mr MacIntosh, St Leonards. After an excellent supper, purveyed by Mr Chisholm, the time-honoured “beef and greens” occupying a conspicuous place on the menu, a number of appropriate toasts were honoured, including that of the Club, which was given by Mr Harry Hossack, solicitor, and replied to by the hon. Secretary, Mr Barton. The toast list was interspersed with songs, etc. After the supper a Curlers’ Court was constituted. In the regretted absence of Mr Wylie, Mr MacIntosh presided as “My Lord”, and Mr J. J. George, Macduff, acted as officer of the court. Between twenty and thirty novices were initiated to the mysteries of the craft. The evening proved very enjoyable, and the meeting was a great success.”

1909, 24th November: The Banffshire Reporter reported as follows: “**BANFF.** – During the recent frost curling was enjoyed on the tarmacadam pond of the Banff and Macduff Curling Club within the Duff House policies. The surface of the pond had been retarred during the past summer, and was in capital condition.”

1910, 14th June: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: “**CHARGES FOR KEYS.** – In terms of notice given, Dr Murray moved that the agreement with the Banff and Macduff Curling Club be amended to the effect of providing that the payment of one shilling per member per year for keys to access by the Collie Road and Bridge gate be discontinued, and that one payment per member be held as sufficient for any length of time during the pleasure of the Trust. Baillie Cumming seconded, and the motion was agreed to, although it was pointed out that there was not much necessity for it, seeing the gates were now always left open. Baillie Cumming moved that the charge for admission to the grounds by the door in Sandyhill Road be reduced. He held that the present charge of 10s 6d. was prohibitive, and moved that the charge be 5s., upon payment of which keyholders should have the right to enter during the pleasure of the Trust, with a guarantee that the keys would not be withdrawn for two years. Mr Watt held that it was iniquitous to make a charge at all, and he moved that no charge be made beyond that of 1s. for a key. Dr Murray seconded. Provost Christie seconded Baillie Cumming’s motion. Mr Rankine supported Mr Watt’s amendment, holding that they should put all the ratepayers on the same footing, and not charge 5s. for this gate and only 1s. for the other gates. Baillie Kerr held that it was a very great privilege to the residents in that part of the town to get in at this particular gate. By making the charge only 1s. they were practically throwing the gate open to all, and they would not thus be giving their tenant reasonable occupancy of the place. The case of the curlers was entirely different, as their keys were wanted to let them out at night at a time when the gates were closed. He moved that the charge be 2s. 6d. per year, this amount to cover a family ticket. Mr Wilson seconded. Baillie Cumming said it was not a privilege but a right under the lease that they should be allowed the use of this gate, and with the consent of his seconder he withdrew his motion in favour of that by Mr Watt. On a vote the charge was fixed at 2s. 6d. by seven votes to six.”

(2s. 6d, in 1909, is approximately £15 in 2020).

1909, 30th November: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser published the following notice: ***“BANFF SKATING CLUB. – A MEETING of those interested in the formation of a SKATING CLUB will be held in the DRAWING ROOM of the ST ANDREW’S HALL, Banff on Wednesday Evening (December 1st), at 6 o’clock.”***

1909, 1st December: The **Banff Skating Club** was established.

1909, 7th December: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: ***“BANFF – FORMATION OF SKATING CLUB. – The approach of winter, with the recent early spell of frosty weather, during which time curlers and skaters enjoyed their season’s first game on the ice, has served to what their enthusiasm for their respective pastimes, and has led those desirous of securing better facilities for skating to take steps towards the formation of a Skating Club. The movement took practical form on Wednesday evening, when about forty ladies and gentlemen attended a meeting in St Andrew’s Hall to consider ways and means by which the object in view might be attained. Rev. A. Boyd was called to the chair, and explained the circumstances which had led to the desirability of the local skaters forming themselves into a club. At present, they had no right of access to the pond on the farm of Colleonard, which was situated on private property, and they could not prevent the ice being broken and damaged by boys. He, however, intimated that Mr T. A. Simpson, the proprietor of the existing pond on Colleonard farm, had indicated his willingness to grant the use of the pond to a skating club at the annual rent of £2. He thought that, with a small outlay expended in cleaning out the pond and by the engagement of a keeper to maintain it in proper order, splendid facilities would be afforded for skating. It was unanimously agreed that a club should be formed to be called the **Banff Skating Club**, and the following office-bearers were elected: - Hon. President, Mr T. A. Simpson; president, Mrs MacIntosh; hon. Secretary and treasurer, Rev. A. Boyd; committee – Mrs Boyd, Miss Hardy, and Miss Marr, and Messrs W. Alexander, P. Lyon, and C. S. McPherson. It was remitted to the committee to fix the rate of subscription, and make all necessary arrangements. The committee have fixed the annual subscription at 2s. 6d. per member, 4s. for two in one family, and 5s. for three or more in one family.”***

1910, 8th February: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser published the following advertisement:

BANFF SKATING CLUB.

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR POND IMPROVEMENT
A CAKE AND CANDY SALE

WILL BE HELD IN THE
ST ANDREW'S HALL, BANFF,

ON
WEDNESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 1910,
AT 3 P.M.

The SALE will be Opened by **PROVOST CHRISTIE.**
ADMISSION FREE

CONCERT at 4 P.M. Admission, sixpence.

CINDERELLA DANCE at 8 P.M. Tickets, 1s. each,
to be had from Members.

TOWN HALL, TURRIFF.
FRIDAY FIRST,
Doors open at 7.30: commence at 8.
PLAN and TICKETS at Mr **GEORGE MILNE'S,**
Chemist.

1910, 17th February: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: "**THE BANFF SKATING CLUB – CAKE AND CANDY SALE.** – In connection with the *Banff Skating Club* a cake and candy sale was held in the St Andrew's Hall, Banff

yesterday. On the call of Dean of Guild Robertson, ex-provost Alexander was called to the chair. Ex-provost Alexander thanked them for asking him to preside at that interesting and enjoyable event. On an occasion such as that a chairman was of little consequence. He was pleased to see such a grand display of goods to be disposed of and so large an attendance of ladies and gentlemen. His duty was to introduce to them Provost Christie, who had consented to open the sale. Provost Christie said he thanked the **Banff Skating Club** for asking him to open that sale. The object of the sale had his greatest sympathy, because it was a most useful and helpful one. Skating was a healthful and important game in the northern climate. It was a game that called forth all their energies and afforded much pleasure to all who engaged in it. He thought the club was to be congratulated on securing the old curling pond at Colleonard, and he was sure that the youthful people of the town would enjoy many pleasant hours on it. However, it required a little money to run the club. They could not have their pleasure without paying for it. There had been a good deal of expense incurred in putting the pond and pavilion in order, and some things still required to be done yet. The sum required was about £15, and to raise that sum was the object of the sale and the other events to be held that day. He had pleasure in declaring the sale open. Mr McPherson moved a vote of thanks to Provost Christie for opening the sale, and Baillie Cumming proposed a vote of thanks to ex-Provost Alexander for presiding. The following were the stall-holders – Cake stall – Mrs Boyd, Mrs Macintosh, Mrs Burton, Miss Alexander, Miss Marr, and Mrs McPherson; candy stall – Miss Wilson, Miss Macintosh, Miss Boyd, Miss Hossack, Miss Nicol, and assistants: flower stall – Miss Hardie, Miss S. Marr, and Miss Lyon; tea stall – Mrs Cumming, Miss Alexander, Miss J. Alexander, Mrs Shirreffs, Miss Forbes, Miss Simpson, Miss Kerr, Miss Reid, Miss Watson, and Miss Badenoch. In the course of the afternoon an enjoyable concert was held in the drawing room of the hall. There was a large attendance, and the following programme was submitted: - Piano duet, Mrs Barton and Mrs Shirreffs; song, Mr William Alexander; recitation, Miss Walker; song Miss Lyon; piano duet Miss Wilson and Miss Mortenson; song, Mr P. W. Lyon; recitation Miss C. Spencer; song, Miss Ethel Bruce; piano duet, Miss Wilson and Miss Mortensen. At the close a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the performers. In the evening a Cinderella dance was

held in the hall, at which there was a large attendance. The dance was most enjoyable and enthusiastic. The drawings amounted to a satisfactory total of £17.”

(£17 in 1910 is approximately £2,050 in 2020).

1910, 11TH October: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“BANFF AND MACDUFF CURLING CLUB.** – A meeting of the members of this club was held on Wednesday, when Mr William MacIntosh, president, presided over a good attendance. Office-bearers were appointed as follows: - Patron, His Grace the Duke of Fife, K.T.; patroness, H.R.H. the Princess Royal; president, Mr William MacIntosh; vice-president, Mr J. J. George; representative members to the Royal **Caledonian Curling Club** – Mr Chas. S. McPherson and Mr A. O. Morison; chaplain, Rev. A. Boyd, B.D.; secretary and treasurer, Mr T. Barton; auditor, Mr A. F. Spence; ice-masters, Mr Robert Wyllie and Mr R. G. Shirreffs; depute ice-masters, Mr J. Maxtone and Mr George Ross. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr Barton and Mr Wyllie for the work they had done for the Club during the past season. The retiring members of committee were Mr A. F. Spence and Mr R. G. Shirreffs. The following committee was appointed for this year: - Provost Paterson and Messrs T. A. Simpson, R. Wyllie, Alex. Dawson, James Chisholm, John Garden, along with the president, vice-president, two representative members and the secretary. The skips were re-elected as follows: - Messrs R. Wyllie, John Anderson, A. O. Morison, R. G. Shirreffs, C. S. McPherson, George Ross. The secretary reported that the President’s cup had been won last season in points competition by Mr C. A. Simpson. He also intimated that for this year’s competition there is a local medal given by the **Royal Caledonian Curling Club**, to be played for by points. The Club is also drawn to play Marnoch during the winter for a district medal. It was agreed to hold a supper in connection with the Club about the 16th of December.”

1911, 17th January: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“BANFF SKATING CLUB.** – The members of the **Skating Club**, formed last year, were instrumental in organising a Cinderella dance, which took place in St Andrew’s Hall on Wednesday. It proved quite an enjoyable event. There were about twenty-four couples present,

and these entered heartily into a programme of dances. Excellent music was discoursed by Wilson's band. As M.C's, Messrs W. Alexander and P. W. Lyon acted efficiently."

1911, 19th December: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **"BANFF AND MACDUFF CURLING CLUB.** – *The annual supper in connection with Club was held in the Fife Arms Hotel, Banff, on Friday, Mr J. J. George, president, in the chair, and Mr R. Wyllie acting as croupier. The toast of the Club was proposed by Mr Stephen Smith, and replied to by the secretary, Mr T. Barton. The Chairman in course of his remarks congratulated Provost Rankine upon his elevation to the civic chair. He mentioned that Provost Rankine was one of these to be initiated as a curler that evening, and remarked that the occasion was unique – that he should be made a Provost and a curler in*



Fife Arms Hotel, Low Street, Banff. (Valentines).

one and the same day. This fact, it was directed, should be recorded in the minutes of the Club. The Chairman also referred to the wreck of the 'Delhi', upon which the Club's patron and patroness, the Duke of Fife and the Princess Royal and their daughters were passengers, and it was unanimously agreed to send a telegram to the Duke congratulating him on the safety of his family and himself. The usual "Curlers' Court" was held, when eight gentlemen were duly initiated as curlers by passing through the wonted "mysteries" of the ceremony. Mr T. A. Simpson, Banff, fulfilled the

role of “My Lord” to perfection, while Mr J. J. George, Macduff, acted as officer of the “court” in a genial manner. At intervals songs and speeches were given, which served to add to the evening’s enjoyment.”

1912, 8th January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **“BANFF – SKATING CLUB DANCE.** – A successful dance was held in St Andrew’s Hall, Banff on Friday evening by the members of the **Banff Skating Club**, when 35 couples attended. Dancing was heartily engaged in to capital music supplied by Mr Pirie’s band. Refreshments were served in the drawing-room, Miss Morison having charge. All the arrangements were admirably carried out by the committee and the Rev. A. Boyd, secretary.”

1920, 5th January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **“BANFF. – WHIST DRIVE.** – Under the auspices of the **Banff Skating Club** an enjoyable whist drive and dance was held in the St Andrew’s Hall, Banff on Friday evening. The club has been resuscitated after a break during the war, and the pond has been put in order at some expense. The object of the entertainment was to help the funds of the club. About 20 tables were in play at the whist drive, and a large number in addition attended the dance. The prizes for the whist drive, which were distributed by the secretary, Mr J. Kissock, in the absence of Mrs MacIntosh, Fife Lodge, president, were won by the following: -Ladies – Miss Helen Addison; consolation prize, Miss McCaughan. Gentlemen – Mr D. Sleigh; consolation prize, Mr G. Cumming. A committee of ladies of the club made themselves responsible for the catering, which was very well done. The hall was tastefully decorated.”

1928, 17th October: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: **“CURLING CLUB.** – The following office-bearers were appointed at the annual meeting of the Banff Curling Club: - President, Dr H. Cowie, Sandyhill House; vice-president, Mr John Chisholm, Ladysbridge; representative members – Messrs C. S. McPherson and W. A. Webster; secretary, Mr T. Barton, Banff Castle.”

1936, 20th January: The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported as follows: *“Win for Banff and Macduff. – For the first time in three years Banff and Macduff Curling Club’s pond was frozen at the week-end, and a match was engaged in with Cullen, the result being a win for Banff and Macduff by seven points. Details:*

BANFF AND MACDUFF		CULLEN	
<i>W. A. Webster</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Jas. McKenzie</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>W. Don</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>John Ingram</i>	<i>25</i>
	<i>44</i>		<i>37</i>

1937, 22nd December: The Dundee Courier reported as follows: *“FORRES WIN MORAY BONSPIEL. – Thirteen clubs were represented at Moray provincial bonspiel, which was held on the Blair’s Loch, near Forres, yesterday. Curlers from Banff, Moray, and Nairn took part. A slight thaw made the ice heavy in the afternoon. Twenty-five rinks played, each club being represented by two rinks, except Banff and Macduff, who sent one, and Nairn, who sent three. Forres won the Royal Caledonian Club Medal. Altyre were second, 13 up, and Nairn third, 10 up. Altyre again won the medal for the second-highest average majority, but voluntarily relinquished it in favour of Elgin.”*

Bibliography.

- 1 Various newspapers as per the text.
- 2 Curling History by John Kerr (1890).

Websites.

www.electricscotland.com/history/BanffMacduff/index.htm

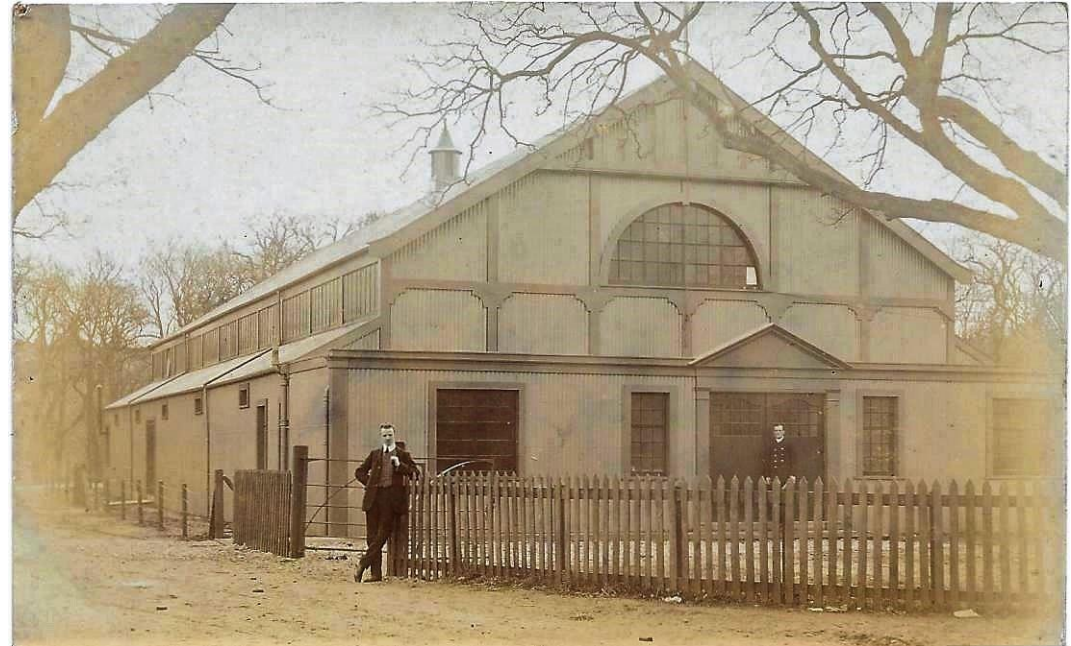
www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

www.oldmapsonline.org

Appendix A

Roller Skating at Banff.

1910, 11th October: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“ROLLER SKATING AT BANFF.** – In connection with the Duff House rink there have been formed a Ladies’ Hockey Club and a Polo Club. In the former there are two teams of five players a side, and practice is being engaged in with a view of giving an exhibition of the game in public. Of polo players, there are also two teams, consisting of six players a side. During the coming season play will be engaged in for a medal, and the first round will take place shortly.”



Roller skating Hall, Duff House, Banff. (c1910).

1911, 7th March: The Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser reported as follows: **“BANFF SKATING RINK.** - Although the pastime of roller skating seems to be waning locally, the young fishermen, meantime free from the pursuit of their calling, are still enthusiasts. On Saturday they had an evening at the rink all to themselves. The management had made arrangements for holding a carnival, races, and sports, but the fishermen apparently preferred skating “each to his taste”, for the proceedings took anything but orthodox form. There was a large attendance of spectators, who found unlimited amusement in watching the vigorous way in which the fisher lads disported themselves on the skates. Several

were equal to the intricacies of the waltz and two-step, but rough and tumble skating seemed to be the popular sport. Heedless of falls, they kept up the merriment for three hours, and even then some did not appear satiated.”

1997: There was a bit of a revival for roller skating when the **Banff Skating Association** was established by forty local children, using the Bridge Street Community Centre tennis courts. The tennis courts were skated on Sundays 1 to 5pm, and training was held on Monday evenings inside the community centre.

1998: There was issues in the Club getting two adults to supervise. I could not find anything more after that.

Other Titles.

Shipbuilding Titles by this Author.

John Webster & Co., Shipbuilders, Fraserburgh 1838 to 1887. Limited edition. (2021), 153 pages.

Available online only at 'The Shipbuilders of Aberdeen' page on www.electricscotland.com (No ISBN):

Aberdeen Concrete Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., Torry, Aberdeen, 1918 to 1920 (2018), 31 pages.

Walter Hood & Co., Shipbuilders, York Street, Footdee, Aberdeen, 1839 to 1881 (2018), 220 pages.

LESLIE: Ship-owners, Shipmasters, & Shipbuilders of Aberdeen (An Introduction) (2018) 150 pages.

John Smith & Co., Shipbuilders, Upper Dock, Aberdeen, c1862 to 1867 (2019) 47 pages.

SS Intaba Built by Hall, Russell & Co., Ltd. York Place, Footdee, Aberdeen, 1910 (2019), 70 pages.

RIFLEMAN, 3-Masted Sailing Ship, Built in Aberdeen, 1860 (2019) 38 pages.

(Includes information on the Great Coram Street Murder of 1872).

Hall Russell Remembered, Shipbuilding in Aberdeen 1864 to 1992 (2007) 36-pages.

William Stephen & Co. / William Stephen & Sons, / Alexander Stephen & Sons, Shipbuilders, York Street, Footdee, Aberdeen, 1793 to 1830 (2019) 75 pages.

David Burns & Co., Shipbuilders, Inches (Upper Dock), Aberdeen, c1857 to c1866 (2019) 47 pages.

John Humphrey & Co., Shipbuilders, Upper Dock, Aberdeen, 1865 to 1875 (2020) 92 pages.

Hall, Russell Male Voice Choir, Aberdeen, 1918 to 1963 (2021) 247 Pages.

Leckie, Wood & Munro Engineers and Iron Shipbuilders, Torry, Aberdeen, 1864 to 1870 (2021) 43 pages.

William Duthie Jnr. & Co., Shipbuilders, Upper Dock, Aberdeen, 1856 to 1870 (2021) 97 pages.

Alexander Hall & Co., Shipbuilders, Footdee, Aberdeen, The 1860's (2021) 186 pages.

Other Books by this Author.

Banff and Macduff Lifeboat, The Early Years, 1860 to 1877 (2021) 100 pages free pdf online.

Launch of the **MV Eddystone** (AKA Taylor's Ship) 4th March 1954 (2021) 64 pages. No ISBN. Privately printed.

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