NEW LUCE CURLING POND RESTORATION

A review of the natural and cultural heritage

For New Luce Community Trust by Jenny Forsyth

southern uplands partnership
living land, living community
GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE
HERITAGE FUND
Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL
south AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Contents

This report has been produced as part of the PLACE project managed by Southern Uplands Partnership.

1. Introduction

The village of New Luce is a small rural settlement that lies on the Wigtownshire Moors in South-West Scotland. During the 19th century curling was Scotland's most popular sport during a time when the rural population was employed on the land and had time to spare in the winter months. Wigtownshire was no exception to this and curling drew many people to the ice when the cold weather caused thick ice to form. There were once over 2,000 lochs and ponds used for curling games in Scotland and two of these were in New Luce. One has since been drained (probably as part of agricultural improvement) and the other was purpose built in the 1850s where bonspiels or curling tournaments took place when the water froze over. This then this fell into disuse in the 1960s when indoor rinks were built in Stranraer and Ayr. Since then, the pond has gradually silted up and become overgrown.

2. Community vision

The New Luce Development Trust have developed a community action plan after various consultations with the support of the Community Enterprise. The main aim of the plan is to develop the greenspaces in the village and the old curling pond is the first priority. With the new play park already a popular addition to the village, and with the Trust recently purchasing the local hotel, the pond restoration will allow families to spend more time in the area to enjoy the heritage assets of New Luce. The community want the pond to be more accessible with a path from the edge of the village at Wellwood terrace, leading to a wildlife viewing point that will incorporate the remains of an old curling stone hut. From the hut, the path well then lead on to create a circular walk around the pond.

The community are keen to preserve the built, cultural and natural heritage of the village as much as they can. They already have a 'New Luce History' website dedicated to old photos and oral memories. In addition to this, the old phone box has been converted into a small information centre with leaflets providing interpretation on various topics of their heritage, giving detail of life in the parish many years ago.

The village are keen to uphold the history of the old curling club by gathering records from members of the community who still remember the curling pond in use. Local families have a strong curling history (as highlighted in Appendix 1) and it is important to collect reminiscences while older members of the community still remember the curling pond in use. One local remembers as a child being in the village but still being able to hear *'the stones sliding along the ice and the loud cheer that followed after'.* By restoring the pond, it will be a valuable wildlife resource accessible to locals, educational groups and visitors. There is an opportunity for an inter-generational project to be developed where the young school students use technology to gather and present the story of curling and the history of the pond.

The information gathered can be incorporated into interpretation boards which enable visitors to experience what the curling pond would have been like in action many years ago.

The realisation is that due to climate change being a problem the pond will be unlikely curled on again, yet, there is still the opportunity to salvage the memories of the past. They know by creating a habitat suitable for the current conditions this will help many species in the quickly changing environmental conditions and they can utilise it to proudly display the community heritage.

3. History

There were 2 ponds at New Luce used by the local curling club. The first was the Loch of Larg (Figure 1) a natural pond which was situated south-west of the village (NX17096439) and would be adopted as the village club name in 1859.

Figure 1. 1st edition O.S. map of New Luce highlighting the Loch of Larg (*National Library Scotland*)

There was then a move to the new pond (Figure 2) on the Penwhirm Dam Road north-west of the village, close to the Bloody Wheel viaduct (NX170650). The new curling pond was reported to have good ice 'and the general appearance and prospects of the place as a future ice-field were very gratifying' (Appendix 2). Set within a plantation it was used for many matches over the years (Figure 3). As long periods of frost during the winter months became less common, and an indoor rink became available, the curling pond was abandoned in the 1960's and gradually became overgrown. The old Loch of Larg was drained, probably as part of agriculture improvements, and is now unidentifiable on modern maps, whereas the 'new' curling pond is identifiable as a wetland area but has no open water (Figure 4).

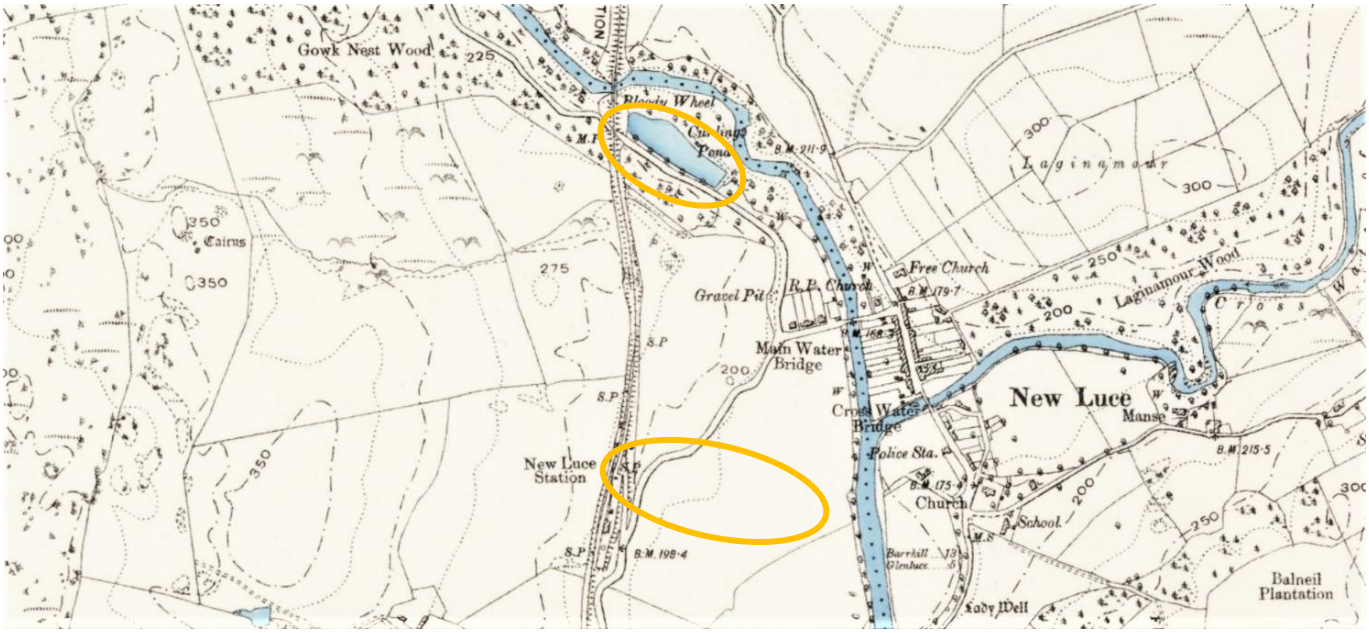


Figure 2. 2nd edition O.S. map of New Luce highlighting the curling pond (*National Library Scotland*)

Figure 3. New Luce curling pond in the 1960's (*newspaper unknown*)

Figure 4. Aerial view of New Luce highlighting the curling pond sites (*Google Maps*)

Figure 5. New Luce curling pond 2007 (*David Baird*)

Results of matches, details of the game and the players were often reported in local newspapers and occasionally from newspapers out with the region (Appendix 2-9). Curling was organised on a local basis in early years due to road travel being difficult, especially during good curling weather. Matches were generally played with a neighbouring parish and there was great variation in the rules of play. In 1835, New Luce were described as being 'long celebrated for their dexterities' (Appendix 3) and by the mid 1800s curlers in New Luce formed a club in order to regulate themselves and the game. Curling was a very social game and matches were regularly followed by dinners and annual balls. The New Luce curling club was known as Loch of Larg and the name was later used to name the new curling pond.

Newspaper reports not only give details of the curling but indication of the weather conditions needed for the sport. The 1825 newspaper report described the weather for the previous 10 days being 'everything the gentleman of the broom could wish' (Appendix 3). A report from 1881 describes 'a sharp frost set in about the middle of last week and has continued since….splendid ice….enjoying their sport to the fullest extent they could wish for' (Appendix 4). Dumfriesshire Antiquarian Society published notes of the weather during the outdoor curling years and in 1912 mentioned 'after a week of keen, hard frost…curling was in full swing…on several days' (Appendix 10). Local records show that a local curling match was played at Wigtown during the cold spell of that year (Appendix 11). The 3rd Statistical Account for New Luce written in 1952 states that 'a strong curling club enjoys more outdoor games (on the Loch of Larg) than do other clubs in the county, for there is ice on the loch when outdoor ice is not available elsewhere'. Additional information can be found in local archive museum collections, from local and national curling clubs such as the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (RCCC) and online websites dedicated to curling.

A notable place name adjacent to the curling pond is the Bloody Wheel railway viaduct that crosses the Water of Luce. The viaduct was completed in 1876 (Smith, 1969) and is designated a category C listed building (Canmore, 2019). It is named after the pool of water in the river where the Hays of Park and the Linn's of Larg are said to have had a violent encounter several centuries ago (National Records of Scotland, 2019).

Figure 6. Bloody Wheel viaduct looking north from curling pond (*Jenny Forsyth*)

4. Present day

The area of the new pond has transformed naturally over time into a fen/bog habitat (Figures 7-14).

Figure 7. View from the start of track looking west towards pond (*Jenny Forsyth*)

The willow is shadowing the pond which has enabled the various plants surrounding to grow to form a marsh.

Figure 8. View looking west towards pond and store from track (*Jenny Forsyth*)

The track that leads to the remains of the old curling stone store is overgrown and has been disrupted by recent tree planting. The recent felling and replanting of a mixed commercial plantation means there are ditches for drainage and piles of brash making pedestrian access difficult and so the site is rarely visited.

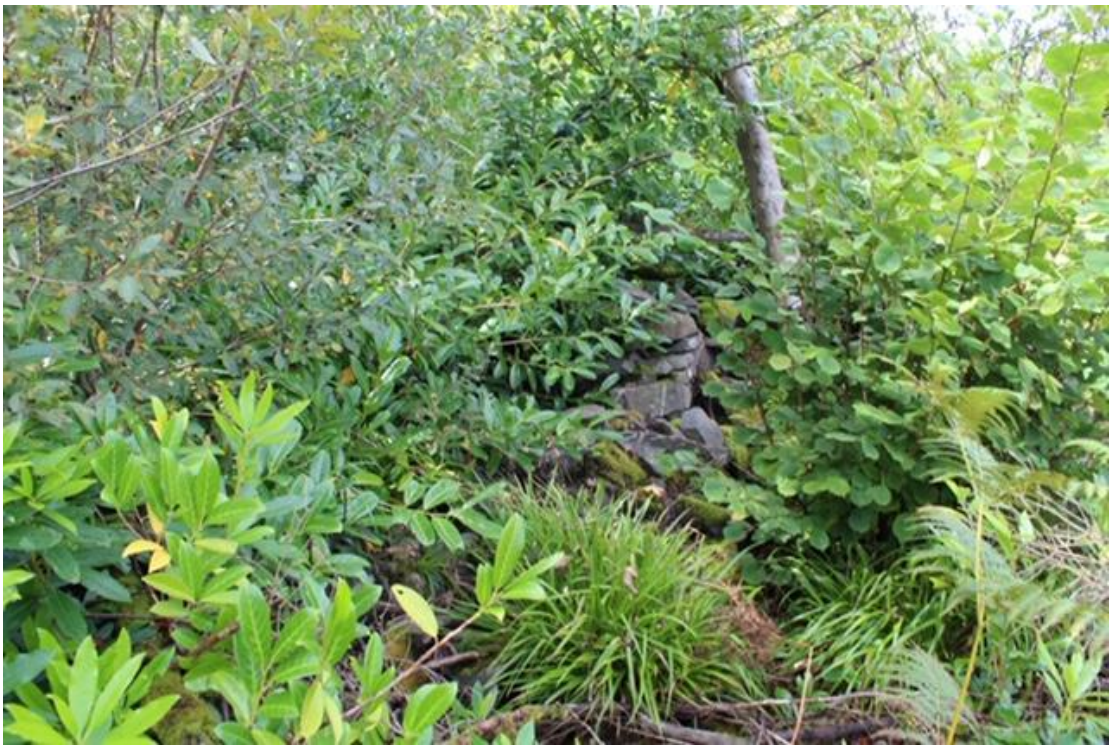


Figure 9. Remains of the old curling stone store (*Jenny Forsyth*)

Figure 10. View north of the curling pond (viaduct screened by trees) (*Jenny Forsyth*)

To the east of the plantation is a steep sided valley of the Water of Luce. A pool in the river known as the ‘pot’ is a popular swimming spot for the locals.

Figure 11. View east from the ridge to the Water of Luce (*Jenny Forsyth*)

Figure 12. View south of scrub on edge of the curling pond (*Jenny Forsyth*)

The edge of the pond is being encroached by scrub and the pond is mostly silted up with only a small area of shallow open water.

Figure 13. Deeper section at the top of the pond (*Jenny Forsyth*)

Figure 14. View north from the road looking onto the curling pond (*Jenny Forsyth*)

5. Climate change

There were once around 2,000 outdoor curling ponds in Scotland but over the last few decades the winters have been so mild there has barely been a prolonged heavy frost and with the change of climate there are far fewer outdoor curling games. Thinner ice means outdoor curling is considered to be dangerous. Since the 1960s and the development of indoor ice rinks the majority of curling ponds have been abandoned and many have been drained for agriculture or left to become overgrown.

A recent report published studying the loss of lake ice suggests that it only takes a slight change in temperature for a lake not to freeze. 513 lakes across the Northern Hemisphere were surveyed to see how their ice cover had changed since 1970—whether they froze and stayed frozen for the whole season, whether they slipped back and forth between ice and free water, or if they didn't freeze at all. A notable conclusion found when considering average air temperatures over the whole year was that if the temperature increased higher than 8.4°C, a lake that usually froze solid would freeze only part of the time. If the mean air temperature at the lake hit 10°C, it was likely that the lake wouldn't freeze at all (Sharma et al., 2019). The study shows a strong connection can be made between the loss of curling ponds and a warming world. The curling pond provides a local tangible example of climate change and can be used to highlight efforts to combat climate change. The pond can be used to demonstrate the need to bring people together to make change and supports the United Nations Climate Change Paris Agreement pledge which came into force in November 2016. It is the first legally binding global deal on climate change and has been consented to by 148 countries including the U.K.

After a prolonged cold spell for the first time in over 30 years, curlers at Kirkcowan near New Luce, were able to curl on the Craighlaw loch on the 9th January 2010.

Figure 15. Curling on Craighlaw loch, Kirkcowan (*David Baird, 2010*)

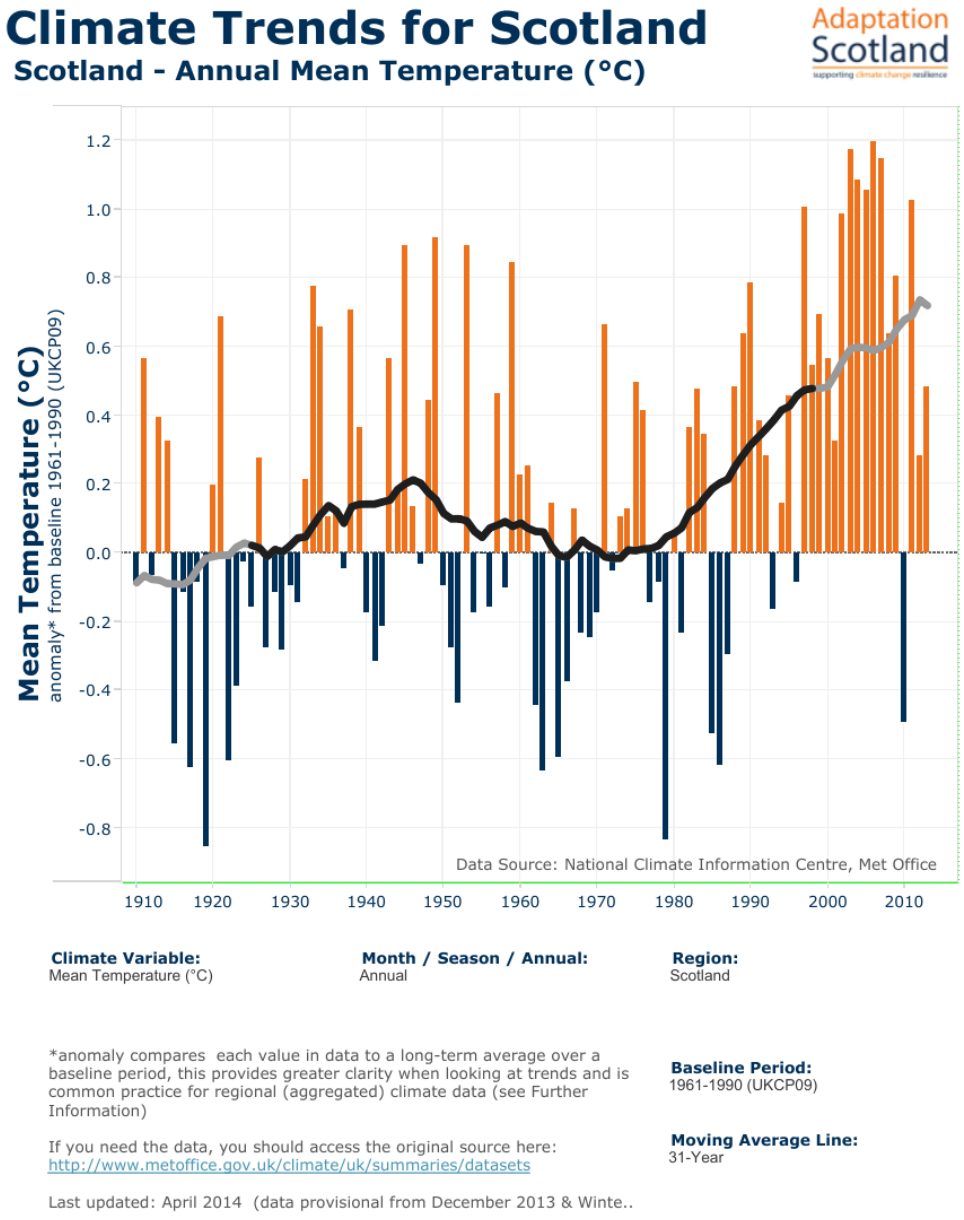
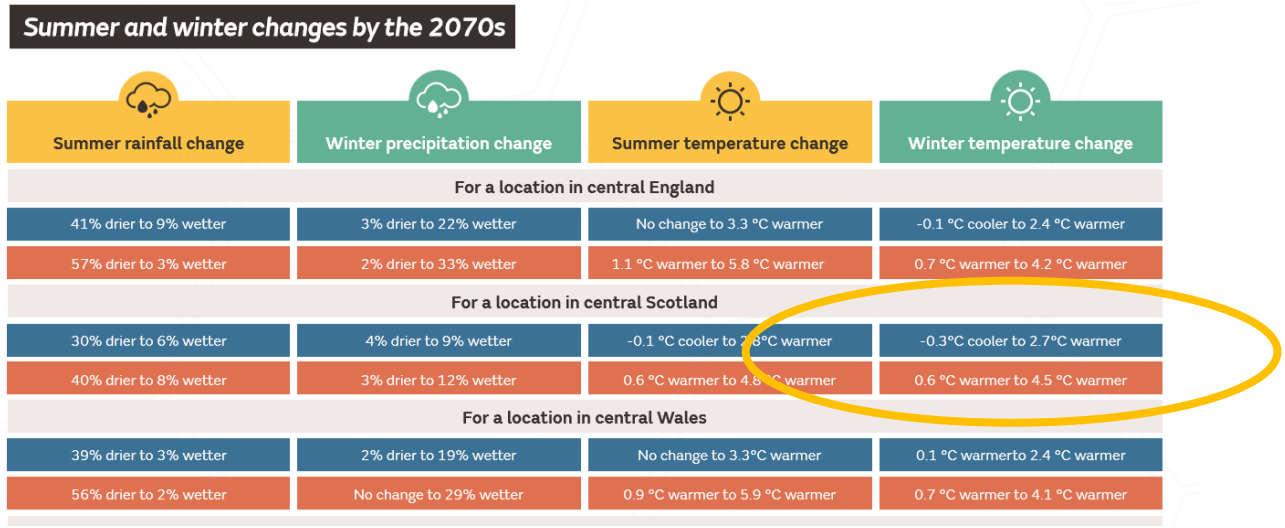


Figure 16. Climate change predictions 2009 (*Adaptation Scotland 2018)*

As seen in Figure 16 above, it is evident there is a change in climate and a rise in annual mean temperatures over the recent decades. Temperatures are projected to intensify and continue on an upward trend. The sport of curling was first recorded in the 1500s, however it wasn't until the late 1700s that it became a popular sport to which outdoor ponds would regularly freeze over with ice thick enough (7 inches) to withhold multiple people, curling stones and movement. However, since the late 1900s there has been a dramatic decrease of hard frost winters and curling ponds became redundant and deemed unsafe, following a series of accidents and deaths. The modern development of indoor curling rinks has allowed the sport to continue with less risk and uncertainty.

Appendix 12 shows the games played in the Galloway area (highlighted in yellow) in comparison to the minimum and mean temperatures for Scotland in January and February of each year. The columns not highlighted are the years where no records of matches have been found. The weather is the most likely the cause for matches not to be played, however social impacts such as the two world wars must also be considered. There are some notable contradictions where minimum temperatures do not fall below freezing but matches have been played in that year. It is possible that in the years when the minimum temperature does not fall below freezing in January or February matches may have been played in the following December. Further research would help strengthen the evidence between local weather conditions and the relationship between minimum temperatures and curling matches.

From the 2018 research, the average temperature over the most recent decade (2008-2017) has been on average 0.3 °C warmer than the 1981-2010 average and 0.8 °C warmer than the 1961-1990 average. Nine of the ten warmest years have occurred since 2002.



Summer and winter changes by the 2070s

Summer rainfall change	Winter precipitation change	Summer temperature change	Winter temperature change
For a location in central England			
41% drier to 9% wetter	3% drier to 22% wetter	No change to 3.3 °C warmer	-0.1 °C cooler to 2.4 °C warmer
57% drier to 3% wetter	2% drier to 33% wetter	1.1 °C warmer to 5.8 °C warmer	0.7 °C warmer to 4.2 °C warmer
For a location in central Scotland			
30% drier to 6% wetter	4% drier to 9% wetter	-0.1 °C cooler to 7.8°C warmer	-0.3°C cooler to 2.7°C warmer
40% drier to 8% wetter	3% drier to 12% wetter	0.6 °C warmer to 4.8 °C warmer	0.6 °C warmer to 4.5 °C warmer
For a location in central Wales			
39% drier to 3% wetter	2% drier to 19% wetter	No change to 3.3°C warmer	0.1 °C warmerto 2.4 °C warmer
56% drier to 2% wetter	No change to 29% wetter	0.9 °C warmer to 5.9 °C warmer	0.7 °C warmer to 4.1 °C warmer

Figure 17. Infographic UKCP18 (*Met office, 2018*)

Predictions from UKCP18 suggests that winter temperature is expected to increase meaning long cold spells are less likely to occur than in the past.

During the life span of any pond the characteristics may change over a short period of time in response to conditions that vary water content, species, soil acidity and biodiversity, so providing a clear indication of its surrounding environment. The pond habitat can be used to illustrate climate changes and demonstrate a clear link between climate and our surroundings.

6. Health and wellbeing

Research suggests that being surrounded by nature, and viewing wildlife in particular has psychological benefits. Socially, research shows that it can play a big part in community cohesiveness (Aldous, 2007) which is crucial for a small community like New Luce.

Research also shows that interactions with nature can be a positive influence on behaviour, academic performance and social skills in children (Wells, 2000) (Kuo and Sullivan, 2001). The Attention Restoration Theory (ART) states that people can concentrate better after spending time in nature, or even looking at scenes of nature (Kaplan, R and S 1989) and natural environments are rich in the characteristics necessary for providing these uplifting experiences. Studies have also shown that access to nature can influence attitudes towards the environment in later life encouraging a stronger connection between people and their surrounding for future generations.

Time spent in a peaceful place thriving with wildlife, either viewing, walking or photographing nature can give people a better sense of wellbeing. Easy access to a restored pond in New Luce will benefit the community, local students and visitor's wellbeing.

7. Wildlife

Climate change has altered the way curling is played and is also affecting pond habitats. Ponds also face threats from degradation and losses from agricultural intensification, pollution, over-abstraction of water for human use, land drainage and lack of appropriate management. Furthermore, the current information and regulations held for the management and conservation of ponds is weak. The protection and enhancement of a pond often occurs through species protection measures such as through pond creation for amphibian species. Around 503 protected species are listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive including the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus).*

Figure 18. Palmate newt - *Lissotriton helveticus* *(Jenny Forsyth)*

Dumfries and Galloway Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) lists forest ponds as a priority habitat. Overall its aims are:

1. That biodiversity is conserved, enhanced and re-created
2. Genetic diversity is conserved
3. Biodiversity is incorporated into all relevant decision-making
4. Biodiversity awareness, understanding and engagement is improved
5. Natural processes are allowed to operate wherever applicable
6. Local distinctiveness is enhanced

A forest pond in this area holds high importance to many invertebrates and native amphibians which use these habitats to breed. A well sheltered site is an ideal environment for populations of dragonflies such as the Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum)*. If connected to watercourses, they hold importance to mammals (even though they may not be directly dependent on this particular type of pond) with some that may breed/rest there and use it as a drinking source.

The value of such a pond depends on a range of factors that are influenced by conditions in the surrounding landscape. The modernisation of forestry production has meant that now ponds are easier to excavated and manage than in the past. Ponds are important because they provide a focal point to a landscape, holding educational value and can in some locations assist treatment of pollutants from the nearby roads or railways.

At the curling pond site, there has been a lack of recording effort (Appendix 14) and this project provides an opportunity to encourage community participation through citizen science activities. Recording wildlife has been occurring since around the 1700s and the data collected is crucial as it can be used to guide land management, support government policy decisions, ask research questions, and educate generations about nature. Without it, it is difficult to determine the effects that climate change and overall human activities are having on Scotland's wildlife.

An invertebrate expert has recently conducted a survey of the site (Appendix 15). An important species found was a marsh beetle which is an LBAP priority species. Bob said of his first time at the pond 'The species I particularly liked finding there are *Hypericum elodes* (very much a western Galloway plant, not much over this way in Dumfriesshire), *Enochrus ochropterus* (usually associate this with 'good' sites), *Cyphon pubescens* (nationally scarce) and *Vertigo antivertigo* (don't often find this, albeit one of the less rare species in a fascinating genus)'. The fact there is a species like the marsh beetle is helpful to know as it can be used as an indicator species to assess the health of the pond.

The species records held for the surrounding area are minimal and dated from many years ago. By creating better access with an observatory as a focus for community recording activities this will attract more recorders/enthusiasts which will enable an increased and valuable understanding of the present variety of flora and fauna in the area for future generations.

7.1 Protected species

The Great crested newt *(Triturus cristatus)* are a European protected species meaning they, their eggs and their habitat are protected by law in Britain under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Froglife, 2001). There are no recordings of them at the curling pond site but there are sites within this part of South-West Scotland where they have been recorded.

The water vole (*Arvicola amphibious*) are another important species under threat. They have undergone one of the most serious declines of any wild mammal in Britain in the

recent past. This was mostly caused due to agricultural intensification meaning the loss of habitat, but also due to the spread of the American mink. Their population has now declined by around 90% (*PTES, 2019*). They are also protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act and are included in the Dumfries and Galloway LBAP along with the Great Crested Newt.

If either species were shown to be present then work would need to be halted and a licence would have to be granted for their protection. The restorations of ponds are valuable for these species as they thrive in this type of habitat and even at this small scale it could contribute to their survival.

Red squirrels (*Squirus vulgaris*) have been recorded in the woods nearby and are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981. They are more vulnerable currently due to squirrel pox which is a viral disease that has been detected in the Galloway area and threatens their survival.

The river that runs in the valley to the east of the pond is known to contain salmon, trout and eel. Eels are protected by legislation and they could be present in the pond despite the lack of open water. Contractors working on the pond restoration should be made aware of eels and if any are seen during restoration it would be important to ensure they could be netted and released.

Figure 19. The pond is covered in water mint - *Mentha aquatica (Jenny Forsyth)*

7.2 Invasive species

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica)* which has been recorded near to the site is a plant which grows rapidly and colonises on a large scale. Growing very tall it will out-compete native plants for light and creates an unsuitable habitat for native wildlife.

Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum)* has also been recorded at the pond. It is a problem due to its branches spreading and dominating large areas of wetland with its canopy, while the main stem and roots of the plant are back on dry land.

Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus)* is another species at the pond. It is problematic as it can easily tolerate areas of drought and shade which allow it to out-compete the native species.

Planted as exotic ornamentals in the past the impact of invasive species is now well understood. By cutting them back or removing them completely it will benefit the native species at the site and help prevent them spreading to other areas.

8. Recommendations

A wider range of people become involved in heritage

- Improve access to the pond

The old access track is over grown and has largely been removed during recent forestry. A new footpath with a firm stable surface will make the area accessible for all, from people with pushchairs to less able visitors. Creating a new path that is suitable for all ages and abilities will result in a facility that is attractive to a range of people who were not already engaged with this wetland habitat. The restoration of the curling pond will add to other facilities such as the playpark and increase the opportunities for people to enjoy the experience of a wetland habitat.

- Build a wildlife viewing area

The foundations of the building used to store the curling stones will make an ideal base for the construction of a wildlife viewing area or hide where people of all ages and abilities can experience wildlife watching.

- Install a weather station

An accessible community weather station will allow a wide range of people to take a greater interest in the weather and climate.

- Organise community events

Community events to gather information about curling will encourage a wide range of people to share experiences and discover more about their place. The older members of the community will have memories they can share with younger people and generate opportunities for cross generation interaction.

Heritage will be in better condition

- Excavate selected areas to recreate open water habitats

The pond has silted up and the open water habitat of a forest pond has been lost. New areas of open water will increase biodiversity and reinforce the cultural connections with the sport of curling.

Recreating open water while the area remains a wetland habitat is a short-term priority to maximise opportunities for species to colonise the pond. The pond work should be undertaken when vegetation is low and outside the breeding season to minimise disturbance to wildlife.

- Coppice the willow scrub

Willow scrub is encroaching the former pond. The willow provides a valuable habitat; however, the growth must be managed to create unshaded open water. A rotation of coppicing will allow light into the understory will increase opportunities for herbaceous species to thrive and increase biodiversity.

- Re-shape the large oak to the east of the pond

The oak is sitting at an angle due to light competition from now felled plantation. Removing some branches on the lower side will promote growth on the weaker side.

- Remove invasive species

Control spread of rhododendron / laurel and identify / remove invasive herbaceous species to enhance wetland habitat for native species.

Heritage is identified and better explained

- Produce pondlife interpretation panel

A panel erected at the pond will help explain why a forest pond is an important habitat and help visitors identify wildlife.

- Produce a climate change interpretation panel

The lack of cold winters and the resulting change in use of curling ponds is a simple way to engage people about climate change. Combined with the proposed weather station a greater understanding of climate change can help influence ideas and actions.

- Add heritage resources on the community website

Add information gathered at community events to the existing website. Old photographs and recordings of memories will help explain the past use of the curling pond.

- Print information leaflet

Produce a leaflet on the history of curling in New Luce to add to existing publications.

- Produce curling interpretation panel

The importance of the curling club to the social and cultural heritage of New Luce will explain the role of winter leisure activities in rural locations.

People develop new skills

- Training on gathering cultural heritage information

Working in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council Libraries and Archives service, volunteers will learn how to record oral history. Volunteers can also learn how to gather old photographs and films.

- Training on gathering wildlife records

Working in partnership with South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC) volunteers will learn how to identify and record wildlife. Citizen science events can be organised to enthuse the community and further the appreciation, understanding and protection of the natural environment.

- Learn how to use a weather station

Provide training for local volunteers to monitor a weather station at the pond. The results collected from it can be shared to organisations such as The Citizen Weather Observer Program (CWOP) and the Met office.

- Nature conservation management skills

Provide training for local volunteers to manage the pond area. Coppicing willow, removal of invasive species and general maintenance could be undertaken by volunteers offering an opportunity for people to engage with the project and learn new skills.

9. References

Adaptation Scotland. (2018). *https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/how-adapt/tools-and-resources/adaptation-scotland-tool-climate-trend*

Aldous, D.E. (2007). Social, environmental, economic, and health benefits of green spaces. *ISHS Acta Horticulture.* 762, Page(s): 171–184.

Canmore. (2019). *https://canmore.org.uk/site/215810/new-luce-bloody-wheel-bridge*

British Library Board archives. (2019). *searcharchives.bl.uk/*

Baird, D. (2010). *https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1655989*

Baird, D. (2007) *https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/586692*

Dumfries and Galloway Council. (2009). *https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/19945/Local-Biodiversity-Action-Plan/pdf/Local_Biodiversity_Action_Plan.pdf*

Froglife. (2001). Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook.

Kaplan, R and S. (1989). The Experience of Nature: A Psychological Perspective. Cambridge: Cambridge university press.

Kuo, F.E and Sullivan, W.C. (2001). Aggression and violence in the inner city: Effects of environment via mental fatigue. *Environment and Behaviour*. 33, Page(s): 543–571.

Lohr, V.I and Pearson-Mims, C.H. (2005). Children's active and passive interactions with plants influence their attitudes as actions toward trees and gardening as adults. HortTechnology. 15, Page(s): 472–476

Met office. (2018). *https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk*

/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp18-infographic-headline-findings-land.pdf

National Records of Scotland. (2019). *Papers of the Hay family of Park. http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/details.aspx?reference=GD72%2f142&st=1&tc=y&tl=n&tn=n&tp=n&k=&ko=a&r=GD72%2f142&ro=s&df=&dt=&di=y.*

New Luce Community Trust. (2016). *https://www.newlucect.org/wp-content/uploads/New-Luce-Research-and-Consultation-Report-FINAL.pdf*

Peoples Trust For Endangered Species (2019). *https://ptes.org/get-informed/facts-figures/water-vole/*

Sharma, S. Blagrave, K., Magnuson, J.J. O'Reilly, C.M. Oliver, S. Batt, R.D. Magee, M.R. Straile, D. Weyhenmeyer, G.A. Winslow, L and Woolway, I. (2019). Widespread loss of lake ice around the Northern Hemisphere in a warming world. *Nature Climate Change*. 9, Pages(s): 227-231.

Smith, D L. (1969). *The little railways of South-West Scotland*. Newton Abbot. Page(s): 145, 149.

South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre. (2019). *https://swseic.org.uk/*

U.K Government. (2016). *https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-ratifies-the-paris-agreement*

Wells, N.M. (2000). AT HOME WITH NATURE: Effects of "Greenness" on Children's Cognitive Functioning. *Environment and Behaviour*. 32 (6), Page(s): 775-795.

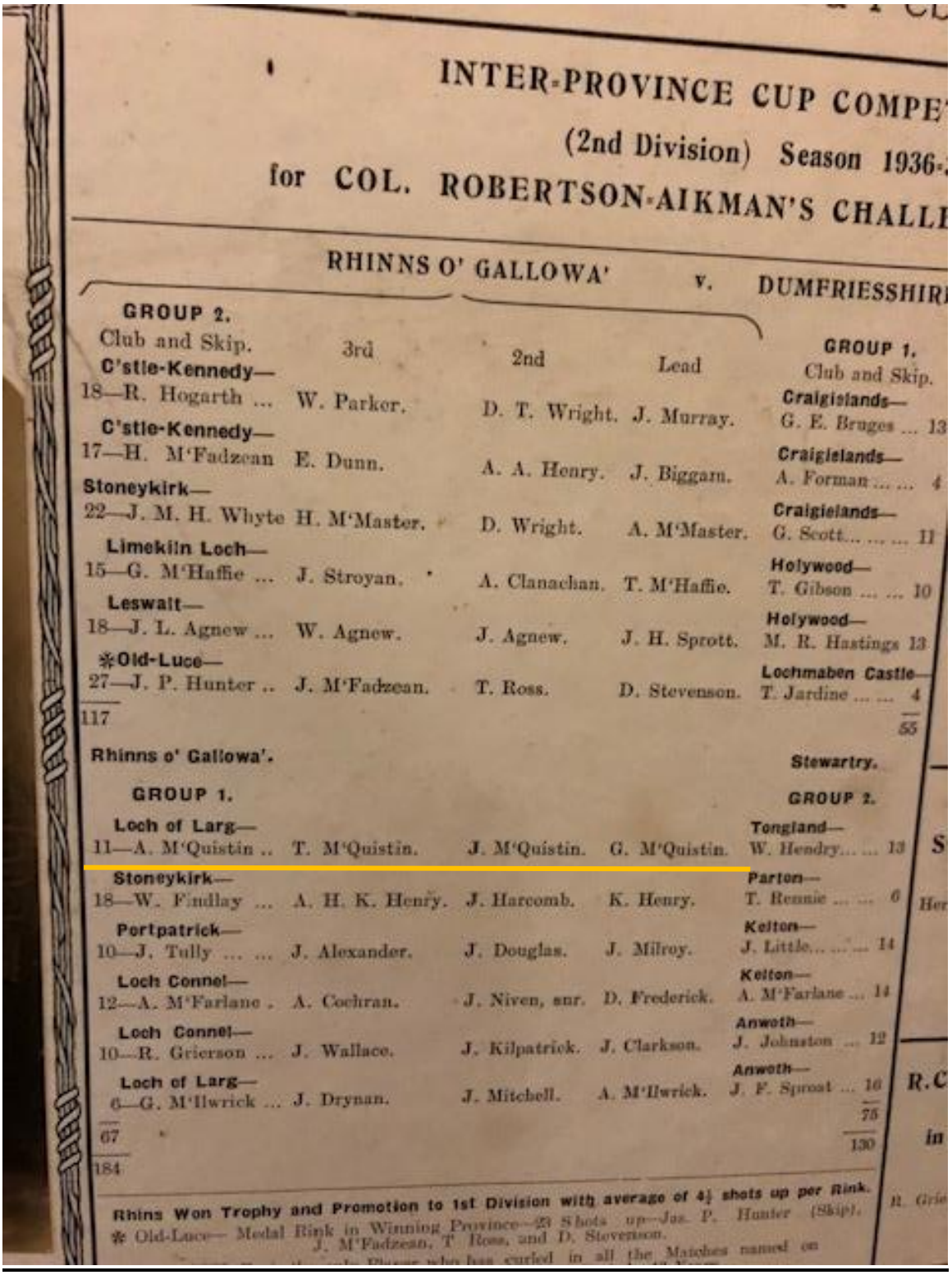
Supplemental websites

https://www.newlucehistory.co.uk/

https://sites.google.com/site/newtonstewartmuseum/

Appendix 1

Interprovince cup competition 1936-1937 (*Newton Stewart Museum*)



INTER-PROVINCE CUP COMPE

(2nd Division) Season 1936-

for COL. ROBERTSON-AIKMAN'S CHALL

RHINNS O' GALLOWA' v. DUMFRIESSHIR

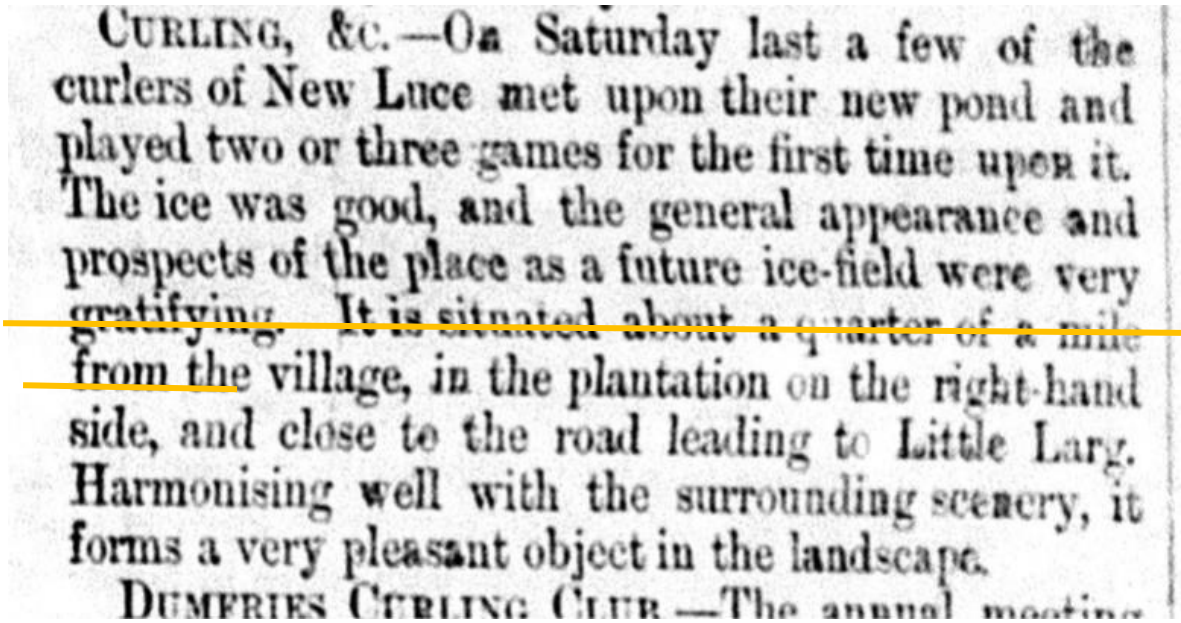
GROUP 2. Club and Skip.	3rd	2nd	Lead	GROUP 1. Club and Skip.
C'stle-Kennedy— 18—R. Hogarth ...	W. Parker.	D. T. Wright.	J. Murray.	Craigielands— G. E. Bruges ... 13
C'stle-Kennedy— 17—H. M'Fadzean	E. Dunn.	A. A. Henry.	J. Biggam.	Craigielands— A. Forman 4
Stoneykirk— 22—J. M. H. Whyte	H. M'Master.	D. Wright.	A. M'Master.	Craigielands— G. Scott... 11
Limekiln Loch— 15—G. M'Haffie ...	J. Stroyan.	A. Clanachan.	T. M'Haffie.	Holywood— T. Gibson 10
Leswalt— 18—J. L. Agnew ...	W. Agnew.	J. Agnew.	J. H. Sprott.	Holywood— M. R. Hastings 13
*Old-Luce— 27—J. P. Hunter ..	J. M'Fadzean.	T. Ross.	D. Stevenson.	Lochmaben Castle— T. Jardine 4
117				55
Rhinns o' Gallowa'.				Stewartry.
GROUP 1.				GROUP 2.
Loch of Larg— 11—A. M'Quistin ..	T. M'Quistin.	J. M'Quistin.	G. M'Quistin.	Tongland— W. Hendry... ... 13
Stoneykirk— 18—W. Findlay ...	A. H. K. Henry.	J. Harcomb.	K. Henry.	Parton— T. Rennie 6
Portpatrick— 10—J. Tully	J. Alexander.	J. Douglas.	J. Milroy.	Kelton— J. Little... 14
Loch Connel— 12—A. M'Farlane .	A. Cochran.	J. Niven, snr.	D. Frederick.	Kelton— A. M'Farlane ... 14
Loch Connel— 10—R. Grierson ...	J. Wallace.	J. Kilpatrick.	J. Clarkson.	Anwoth— J. Johnston ... 12
Loch of Larg— 6—G. M'Ilwrick ...	J. Drynan.	J. Mitchell.	A. M'Ilwrick.	Anwoth— J. F. Sproat ... 16
67				75
184				130

Rhins Won Trophy and Promotion to 1st Division with average of 4½ shots up per Rink.

* Old-Luce— Medal Rink in Winning Province—23 Shots up—Jas. P. Hunter (Skip), J. M'Fadzean, T. Ross, and D. Stevenson.

Appendix 2

Dumfries and Galloway Standard December 10th 1859 (*Dumgal library archives)*

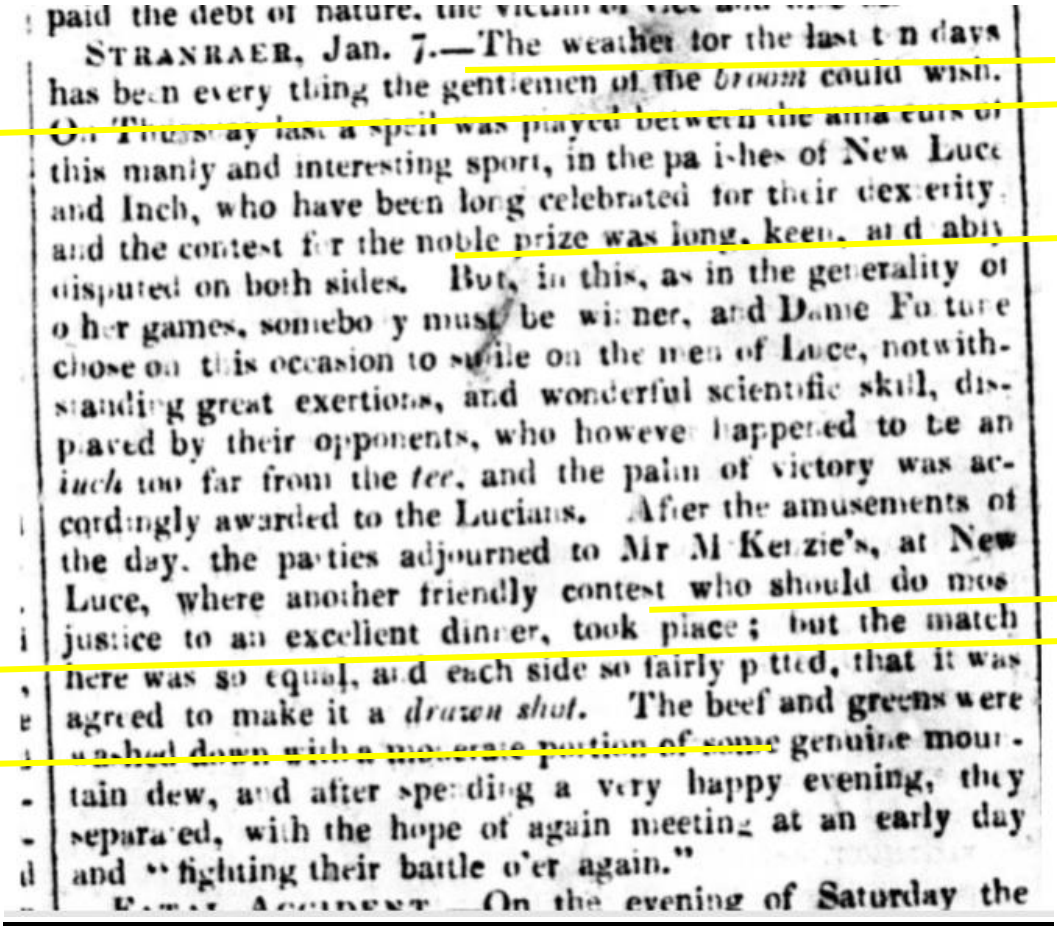


CURLING, &c.—On Saturday last a few of the curlers of New Luce met upon their new pond and played two or three games for the first time upon it. The ice was good, and the general appearance and prospects of the place as a future ice-field were very gratifying. It is situated about a quarter of a mile from the village, in the plantation on the right-hand side, and close to the road leading to Little Lary. Harmonising well with the surrounding scenery, it forms a very pleasant object in the landscape.

DUMFRIES CURLING CLUB.—The annual meeting

Appendix 3

Dumfries and Galloway Standard January 1826 (*Dumgal library archives*)



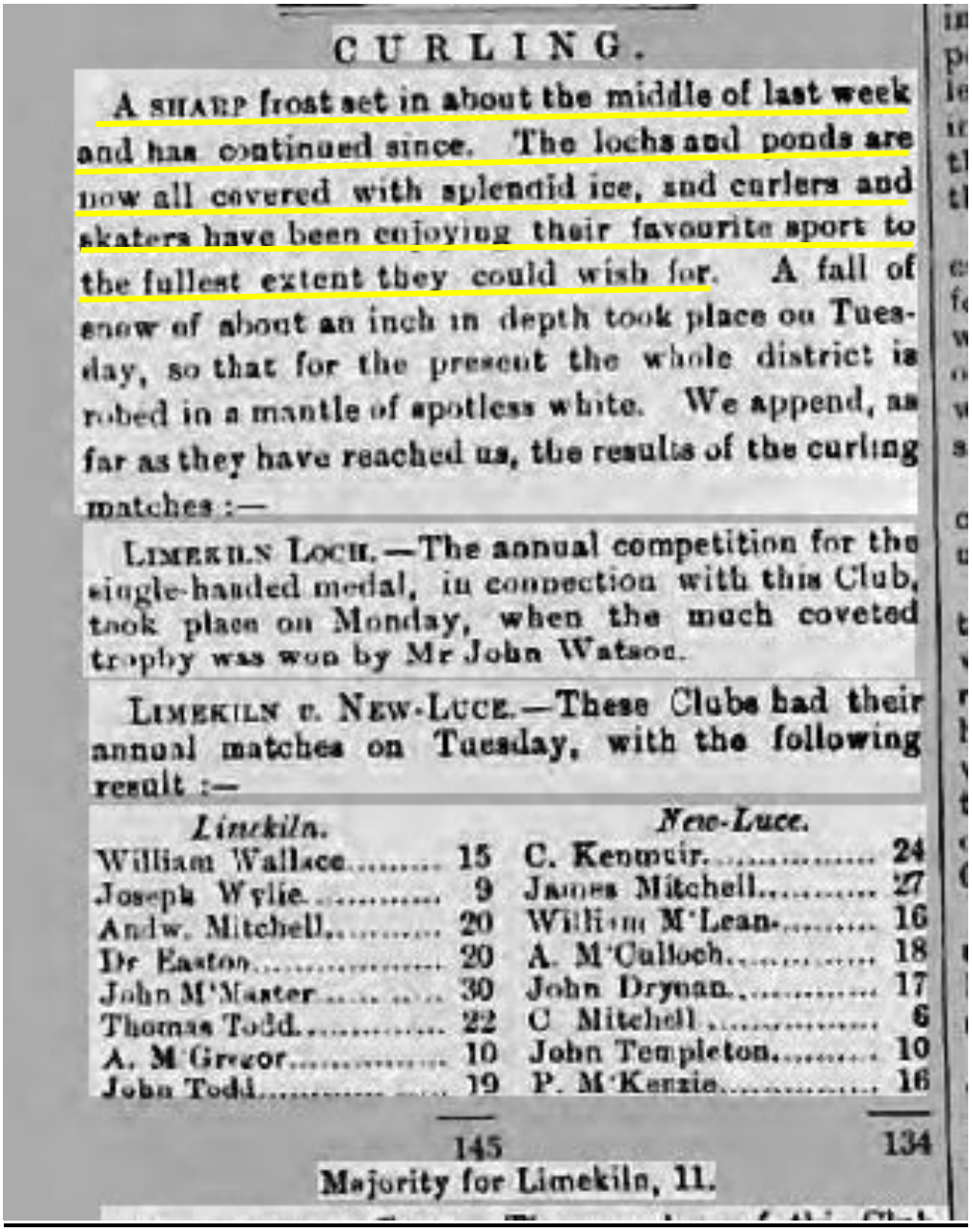
paid the debt of nature. the victim of [illegible]

STRANRAER, Jan. 7.—The weather for the last ten days has been every thing the gentlemen of the *broom* could wish. On Thursday last a spell was played between the [illegible] this manly and interesting sport, in the parishes of New Luce and Inch, who have been long celebrated for their dexterity and the contest for the noble prize was long, keen, and ably disputed on both sides. But, in this, as in the generality of other games, somebody must be winner, and Dame Fortune chose on this occasion to smile on the men of Luce, notwithstanding great exertions, and wonderful scientific skill, displayed by their opponents, who however happened to be an *inch* too far from the *tee*, and the palm of victory was accordingly awarded to the Lucians. After the amusements of the day, the parties adjourned to Mr M'Kenzie's, at New Luce, where another friendly contest who should do most justice to an excellent dinner, took place; but the match here was so equal, and each side so fairly pitted, that it was agreed to make it a *drawn shot*. The beef and greens were washed down with a moderate portion of some genuine mountain dew, and after spending a very happy evening, they separated, with the hope of again meeting at an early day and "fighting their battle o'er again."

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On the evening of Saturday the

Appendix 4

Galloway advertiser January 1881 (*British Library archives*)



CURLING.

A SHARP frost set in about the middle of last week and has continued since. The lochs and ponds are now all covered with splendid ice, and curlers and skaters have been enjoying their favourite sport to the fullest extent they could wish for. A fall of snow of about an inch in depth took place on Tuesday, so that for the present the whole district is robed in a mantle of spotless white. We append, as far as they have reached us, the results of the curling matches :—

LIMEKILN LOCH.—The annual competition for the single-handed medal, in connection with this Club, took place on Monday, when the much coveted trophy was won by Mr John Watson.

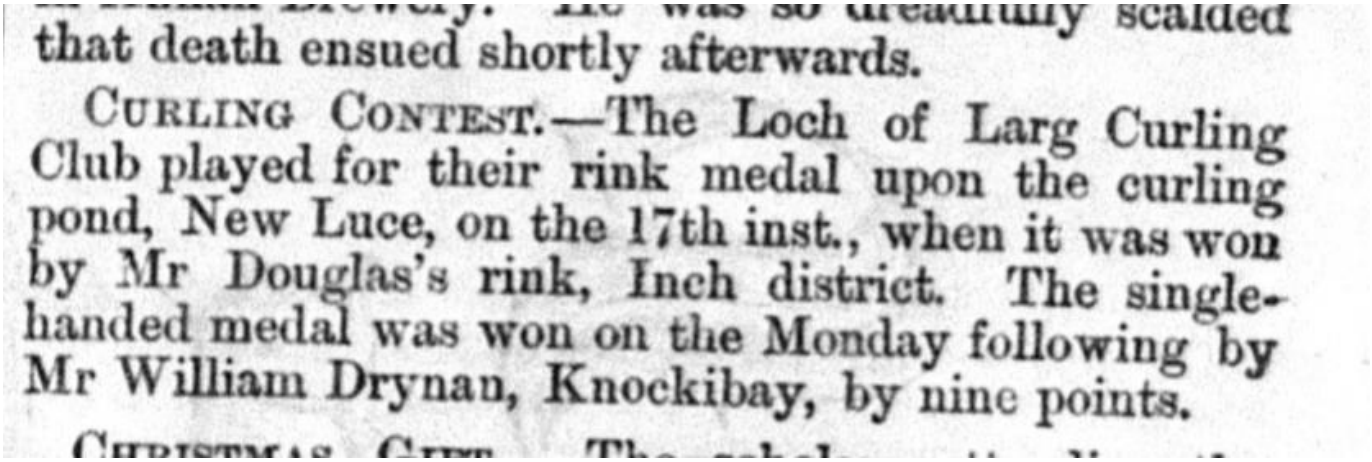
LIMEKILN v. NEW-LUCE.—These Clubs had their annual matches on Tuesday, with the following result :—

Limekiln.		*New-Luce.*	
William Wallace	15	C. Kennedy	24
Joseph Wylie	9	James Mitchell	27
Andw. Mitchell	20	William M'Lean	16
Dr Easton	20	A. M'Culloch	18
John M'Master	30	John Drynan	17
Thomas Todd	22	C Mitchell	6
A. M'Gregor	10	John Templeton	10
John Todd	19	P. M'Kenzie	16
	145		134

Majority for Limekiln, 11.

Appendix 5

Dumfries and Galloway Standard December 24th 1859 (*Dumgal library archives*)

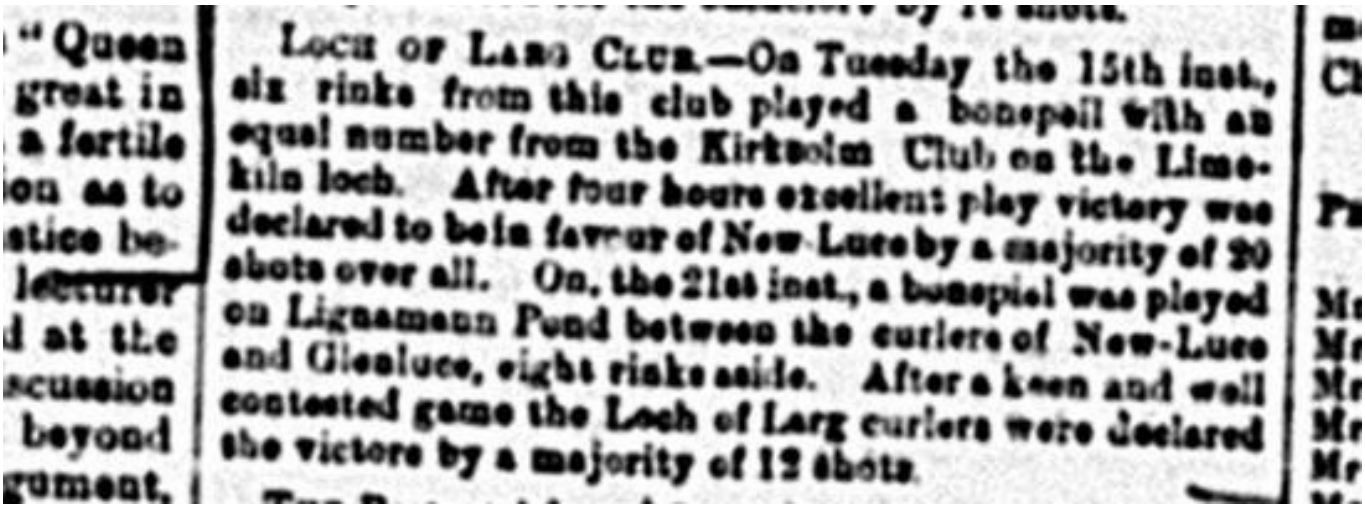


that death ensued shortly afterwards.

CURLING CONTEST.—The Loch of Larg Curling Club played for their rink medal upon the curling pond, New Luce, on the 17th inst., when it was won by Mr Douglas's rink, Inch district. The single-handed medal was won on the Monday following by Mr William Drynan, Knockibay, by nine points.

Appendix 6

Wigtownshire free press January 24th 1867 (*Dumgal library archives*)

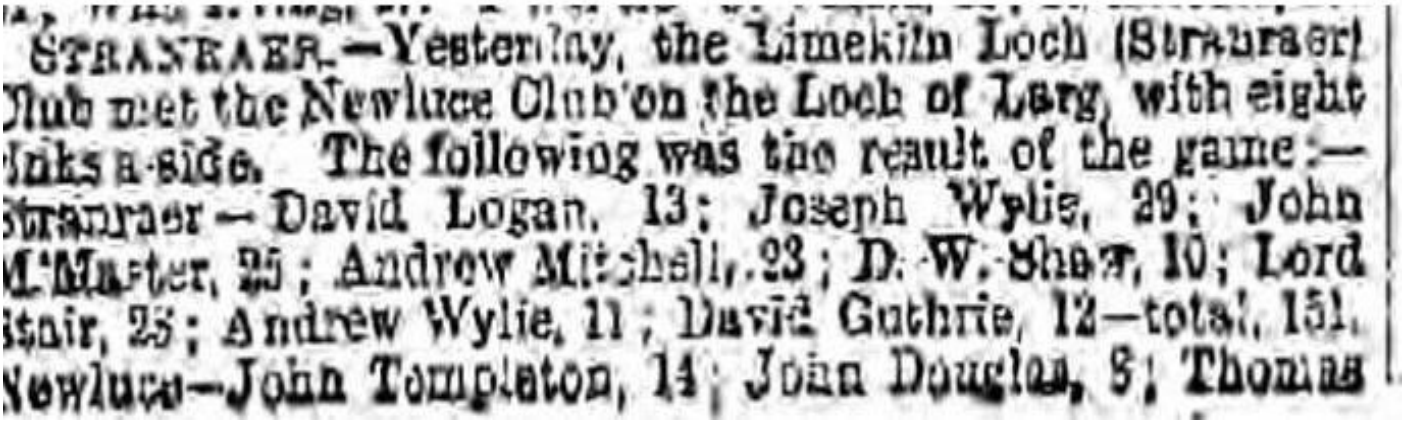


"Queen great in a fertile ion as to stice be- lecturer d at the scussion beyond gument.

LOCH OF LARG CLUB.—On Tuesday the 15th inst., six rinks from this club played a bonspeil with an equal number from the Kirkcolm Club on the Lime-kiln loch. After four hours excellent play victory was declared to be in favour of New-Luce by a majority of 20 shots over all. On the 21st inst., a bonspiel was played on Lignamann Pond between the curlers of New-Luce and Glenluce, eight rinks aside. After a keen and well contested game the Loch of Larg curlers were declared the victors by a majority of 12 shots.

Appendix 7

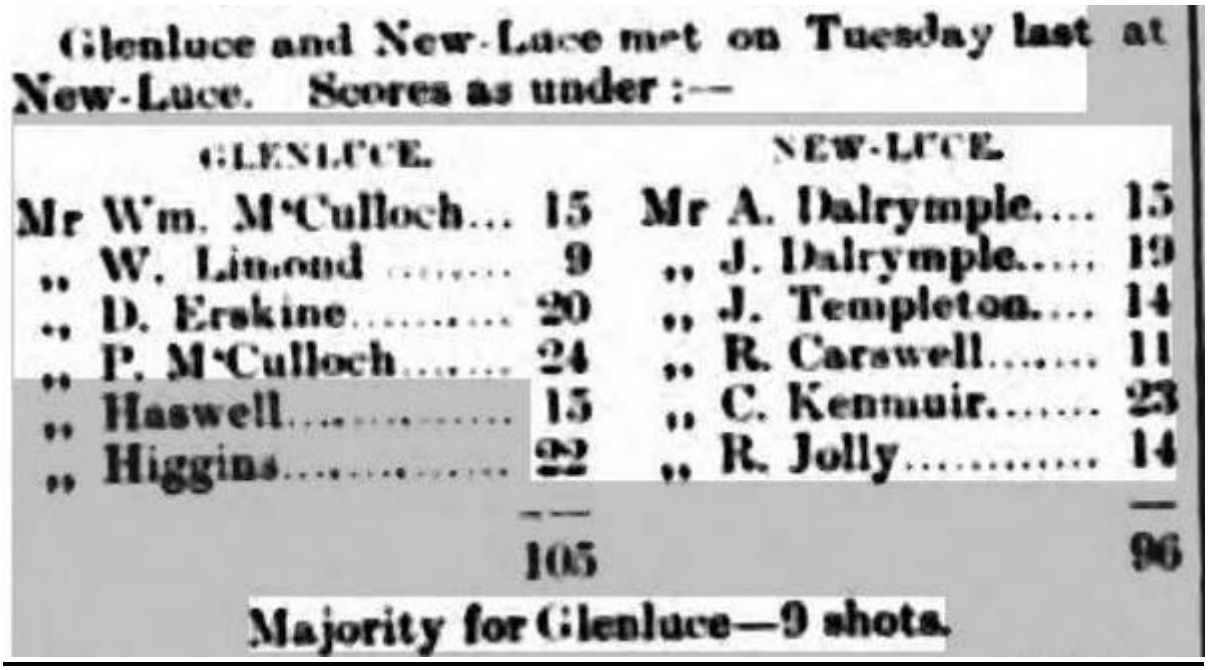
Glasgow Herald December 9th 1875 (*British library archives*)



STRANRAER.—Yesterday, the Limekiln Loch (Stranraer) Club met the Newluce Club on the Loch of Larg, with eight rinks a-side. The following was the result of the game:—Stranraer—David Logan, 13; Joseph Wylie, 29; John M'Master, 25; Andrew Mitchell, 23; D. W. Shaw, 10; Lord Stair, 25; Andrew Wylie, 11; David Guthrie, 12—total, 151. Newluce—John Templeton, 14; John Douglas, 8; Thomas

Appendix 8

Figure 13. Galloway Gazette Saturday 2nd February 1895 (*British Library archives)*



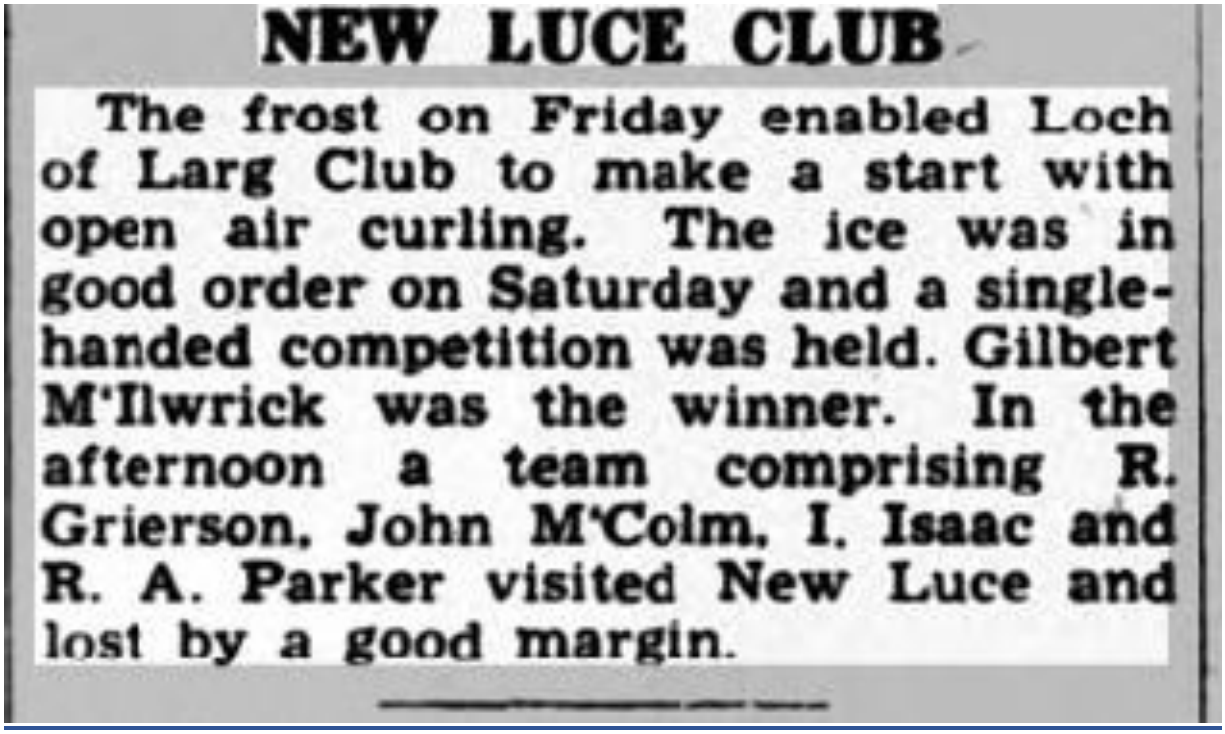
Glenluce and New-Luce met on Tuesday last at New-Luce. Scores as under:—

GLENLUCE.		NEW-LUCE.	
Mr Wm. M'Culloch...	15	Mr A. Dalrymple....	15
,, W. Linond	9	,, J. Dalrymple.....	19
,, D. Erskine.....	20	,, J. Templeton....	14
,, P. M'Culloch.....	24	,, R. Carswell.....	11
,, Haswell.....	15	,, C. Kennuir.....	23
,, Higgins.....	22	,, R. Jolly.....	14
	105		96

Majority for Glenluce—9 shots.

Appendix 9

Galloway Gazette February 1952 (*British library archives*)

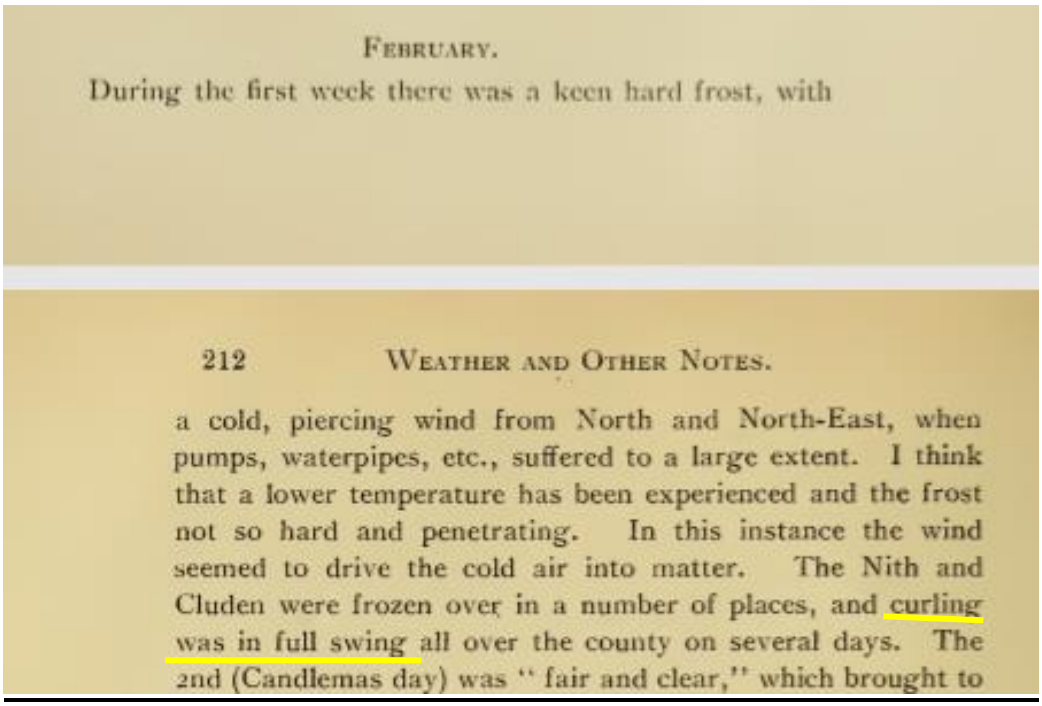


NEW LUCE CLUB

The frost on Friday enabled Loch of Larg Club to make a start with open air curling. The ice was in good order on Saturday and a single-handed competition was held. Gilbert M'Ilwrick was the winner. In the afternoon a team comprising R. Grierson, John M'Colm, I. Isaac and R. A. Parker visited New Luce and lost by a good margin.

Appendix 10

Weather notes from February 1912 (Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society)



FEBRUARY.

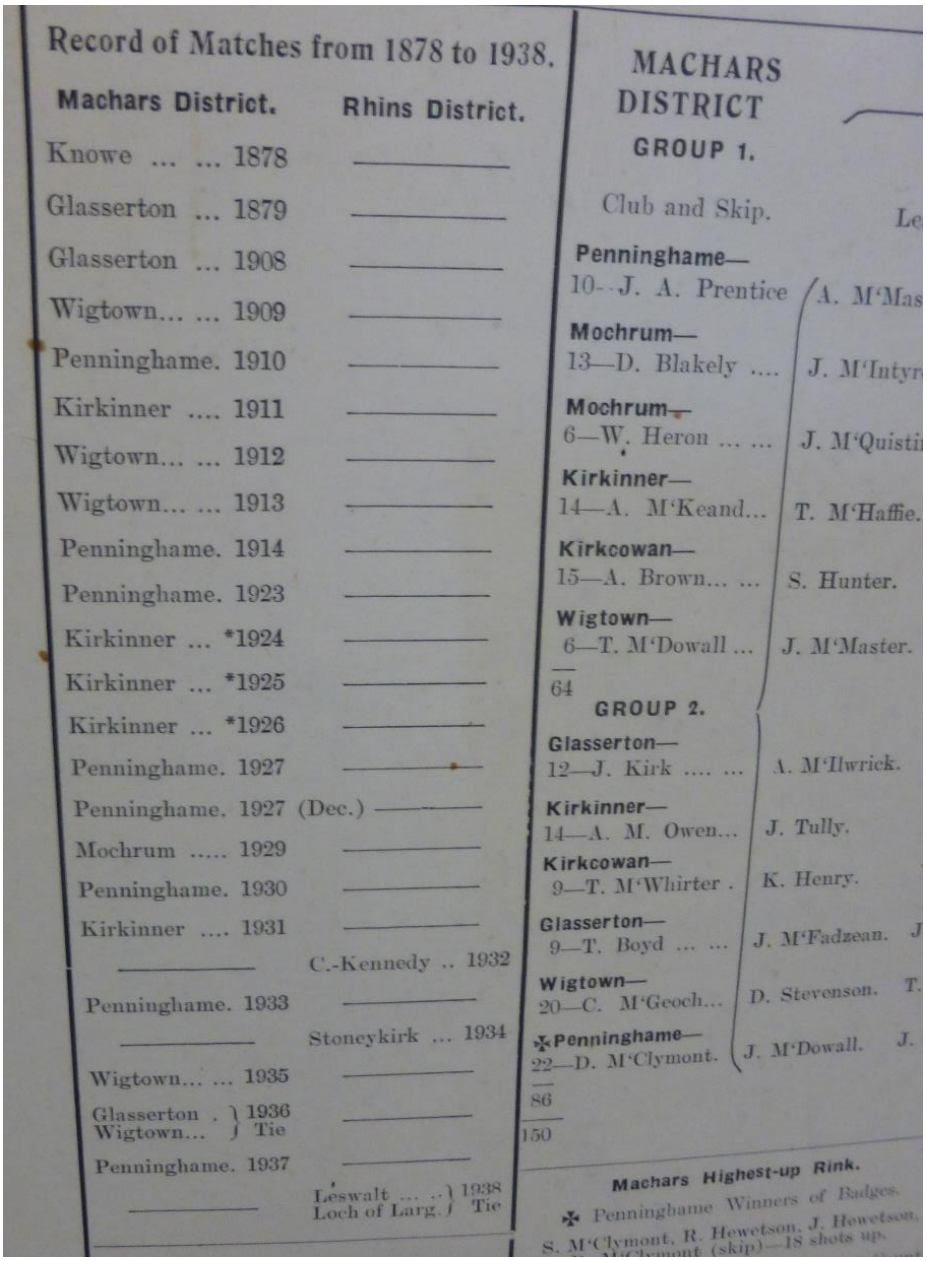
During the first week there was a keen hard frost, with

212 WEATHER AND OTHER NOTES.

a cold, piercing wind from North and North-East, when pumps, waterpipes, etc., suffered to a large extent. I think that a lower temperature has been experienced and the frost not so hard and penetrating. In this instance the wind seemed to drive the cold air into matter. The Nith and Cluden were frozen over in a number of places, and curling was in full swing all over the county on several days. The 2nd (Candlemas day) was "fair and clear," which brought to

Appendix 11

Record of local matches 1878-1938 (*Newton Stewart Museum)*



Record of Matches from 1878 to 1938.

Machars District.		Rhins District.
Knowe	1878	———
Glasserton ...	1879	———
Glasserton ...	1908	———
Wigtown... ...	1909	———
Penninghame.	1910	———
Kirkinner	1911	———
Wigtown... ...	1912	———
Wigtown... ...	1913	———
Penninghame.	1914	———
Penninghame.	1923	———
Kirkinner ...	*1924	———
Kirkinner ...	*1925	———
Kirkinner ...	*1926	———
Penninghame.	1927	———
Penninghame.	1927 (Dec.)	———
Mochrum	1929	———
Penninghame.	1930	———
Kirkinner	1931	———
———		C.-Kennedy .. 1932
Penninghame.	1933	———
———		Stoneykirk ... 1934
Wigtown... ...	1935	———
Glasserton .) Wigtown...)	1936 Tie	———
Penninghame.	1937	———
———		Leswalt ... ..) Loch of Larg .) 1938 Tie

MACHARS DISTRICT

GROUP 1.

Club and Skip.	Le
Penninghame— 10—J. A. Prentice	A. M'Mas
Mochrum— 13—D. Blakely	J. M'Intyr
Mochrum— 6—W. Heron	J. M'Quisti
Kirkinner— 14—A. M'Keand...	T. M'Haffie.
Kirkcowan— 15—A. Brown... ...	S. Hunter.
Wigtown— 6—T. M'Dowall ...	J. M'Master.
64	

GROUP 2.

Glasserton— 12—J. Kirk	A. M'Ilwrick.
Kirkinner— 14—A. M. Owen...	J. Tully.
Kirkcowan— 9—T. M'Whirter .	K. Henry.
Glasserton— 9—T. Boyd	J. M'Fadzean. J
Wigtown— 20—C. M'Geoch...	D. Stevenson. T.
✠**Penninghame—** 22—D. M'Clymont.	J. M'Dowall. J.
86	
150	

Machars Highest-up Rink.

✠ Penninghame Winners of Badges.

S. M'Clymont, R. Hewetson, J. Hewetson, M'Clymont (skip)—18 shots up.

Appendix 12

Curling years highlighted yellow taken from local newspapers/museum records and weather data for Scotland from the Met office.

Years	Min temp (ºC) Jan	Mean temp (ºC) Jan	Min Temp (ºC) Feb	Mean Temp (ºC) Feb
1910	-1.9	1.2	-0.6	2.4
1911	0.9	3.5	0	3.1
1912	-0.4	2.2	-0.1	2.8
1913	0.2	2.4	0.6	3.5
1914	-0.1	2.4	1.4	4.3
1915	-0.5	1.8	-0.5	2.1
1916	2.5	5.1	-0.7	1.7
1917	-1.1	0.7	-1.5	1.2
1918	-1.7	1.1	2.3	4.6
1919	-0.4	1.8	-2.6	0.2
1920	-0.2	2.4	1.2	4.1
1921	1.4	4	1.1	3.8
1922	-0.2	1.9	0.1	2.6
1923	2.2	4.6	1.3	3.2
1924	0.8	3.1	0.6	2.8
1925	1.6	3.8	0.2	2.5
1926	1.1	3.4	1.4	3.9
1927	0.6	2.9	0.5	3.3
1928	0.6	3.2	0.6	3.5
1929	-2.3	0.3	-1.9	0.4
1930	0.4	2.8	-2.2	0.7
1931	-0.6	1.9	-0.6	2
1932	2	4.9	0.7	3.6
1933	-1.3	1.4	-0.3	2.3
1934	1.5	4	1.9	4.5
1935	1.1	3.5	0.5	3.1
1936	-1.2	1.1	-1.5	1.2
1937	1.1	3.5	-0.3	2.1
1938	1.1	3.6	0.5	3.3
1939	-1.3	1.3	1.7	4.3
1940	-3.8	-1	-1	1.4
1941	-3.6	-1.1	-1.8	1
1942	-1.5	-1.1	-2.7	0.2
1943	0.3	2.6	1.9	4.6
1944	1.5	4.1	-0.4	2.4
1945	-4.1	-1.1	1.9	4.5
1946	-0.7	2.1	0.7	3.3
1947	-0.7	1.6	-4.9	-2.4
1948	-0.8	1.6	0.3	3
1949	0.8	3.6	1.1	4
1950	1.3	3.5	-1	2
1951	-0.7	1.6	-1.2	1.3
1952	-2.9	-0.1	-0.7	2.2

Appendix 13

Records within 1500m of New Luce NX170650 (*SWSEIC*)

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	SPECIES GROUP	LAST RECORDED	NO. OF RECORDS
Tyto Alba	Barn Owl	Aves	2006	2
Turdus merula	Blackbird	Aves	2009	1
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	Aves	2016	2
Phylloscopus collybita	Chiffchaff	Aves	2015	2
Streptopelia decaocto	Collared dove	Aves	2009	4
Cinclus	Dipper	Aves	2014	4
Certhia familiaris	Tree creeper	Aves	2010	2
Salmo salar	Atlantic salmon	Actinopterygii	1990	1
Salmo trutta	Brown/Sea Trout	Actinopterygii	1990	1
Anguilla	European eel	Actinopterygii	1990	1
Fallopia japonica	Japanese knotweed	Carophyllaes	2015	2
Argynnis aglaja	Dark green fritillary	Lepidoptera	2005	1
Aglais io	Peacock	Lepidoptera	2011	3
Cordulegastridae	Spiketail dragonfly	Odonata	2006	2
Cornu aspersum	Common garden snail	Mollusca	2012	1
Arion (Kobeltia) distinctus	Brown soil slug	Mollusca	2012	1
Scuirus carolinensis	Grey squirrel	Mammalia	2017	1
Scuirus vulgaris	Red squirrel	Mammalia	2017	19
Lutra lutra	European otter	Mammalia	1978	1
Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Pipistrelle bat	Mammalia	2014	1

Appendix 14

Species recorded by Bob Merritt (invertebrate expert) on 13/9/19.

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	SPECIES GROUP	
Calliergon cuspidatum	a moss	Moss	
Equisetum fluviatile	Water Horsetail	Vascular plant	
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser Spearwort	Vascular plant	
Hypericum elodes	Marsh St. John's-wort	Vascular plant	
Salix sp.	a sallow	Vascular plant	
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Vascular plant	
Potentilla palustris	Marsh Cinquefoil	Vascular plant	
Epilobium sp.	a willowherb	Vascular plant	
Hydrocotyle vulgaris	Marsh Pennywort	Vascular plant	
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica	Vascular plant	
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bogbean	Vascular plant	
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint	Vascular plant	
Lemna sp.	a duckweed	Vascular plant	
Eleocharis SP.	a Spike-rush	Vascular plant	
Carex sp.	a sedge	Vascular plant	
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed Canary-grass	Vascular plant	
Potamopyrgus antipodarum	Jenkins' Spire Snail	Mollusc	
Lymnaea palustris agg.	a pond snail	Mollusc	
Vertigo antivertigo	a whorl snail	Mollusc	
Pyrrhosoma nymphula	Large Red Damselfly	Dragonfly	
Libellula quadrimaculata	Four-spotted Chaser	Dragonfly	
Sympetrum striolatum	Common Darter	Dragonfly	
Hydrometra stagnorum	a water-measurer	True bug	
Gerris lacustris	Common Pondskater	True bug	
Hydroporus angustatus	a diving water beetle	Beetle	
Hydroporus erythrocephalus	a diving water beetle	Beetle	
Hydroporus gyllenhalii	a diving water beetle	Beetle	
Agabus affinis	a diving water beetle	Beetle	
Agabus bipustulatus	a diving water beetle	Beetle	

Ilybius fuliginosus	a diving water beetle	Beetle	
Helophorus grandis	a scavenger water beetle	Beetle	
Coelostoma orbiculare	a scavenger water beetle	Beetle	
Anacaena lutescens	a scavenger water beetle	Beetle	
Laccobius bipunctatus	a scavenger water beetle	Beetle	
Enochrus coarctatus	a scavenger water beetle	Beetle	
Enochrus ochropterus	a scavenger water beetle	Beetle	
Stenus bifoveolatus	a rove beetle	Beetle	
Stenus cicindeloides	a rove beetle	Beetle	
Stenus melanarius	a rove beetle	Beetle	
Quedius fuliginosus	a rove beetle	Beetle	
Tachyporus chrysomelinus	a rove beetle	Beetle	
Cyphon pubescens	a marsh beetle	Beetle	
Plateumaris sericea	a leaf beetle	Beetle	
Galerucella sagittariae	a leaf beetle	Beetle	
Pirata piraticus	a wolf spider	Spider	
Antistea elegans	a lesser cobweb spider	Spider	
Enoplognatha ovata sens. str.	a comb-footed spider	Spider	
Metellina segmentata sens. str.	a long-jawed spider	Spider	
Tetragnatha extensa	a long-jawed spider	Spider	
Pachygnatha clercki	a long-jawed spider	Spider	
Araneus diadematus	Garden Orb-web Spider	Spider	
Larinioides cornutus	an orb-weaver spider	Spider	
Gnathonarium dentatum	a money spider	Spider	
Diplocephalus permixtus	a money spider	Spider	
Drepanotylus uncatus	a money spider	Spider	
Bathyphantes approximatus	a money spider	Spider	
Bathyphantes gracilis	a money spider	Spider	
Linyphia triangularis	a money spider	Spider	
Lissotriton helveticus	Palmate Newt	Amphibian	