

Howard rink recounts Scotland trip

Tues. March 24
Met at Thornhill (boys team and Bayview Girls team and Mr. and Mrs. Palmer - Toronto Curling Association representative). Pictures taken by Sun Life. Limousined to the airport. 45 minute delay. Final departure at 8:50 p.m. March 24. Uneventful flight - but no sleep.

Wed. Mar. 25
Arrived Prestwick 7:50 a.m. Scotland time. (six hour flight). Met by four Scottish boys who transported us to Stranraer Ice Rink. Met here the 1980 World Junior Champions (skipped by Andrew McQuistin). Luncheon North West Castle Hotel. Remainder of day spent with McQuistin team showing us the sights of Stranraer. (A community roughly the size of Midland, completely surrounded by lush farmland. Glenn and Peter Billeted with the McQuistin family. Paul and Tim with President of Junior Curling. Hospitality incomparable.

Thurs. March 26
Breakfast 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. Stranraer Ice Rink. First game at 10 a.m. versus Andrew McQuistin (1980 World Champs). Fortunately won the game decisively. Lunch at the ice rink. Second game same rink against another Stranraer representative and we lost on the last rock. Back to billets for dinner. First introduction to Scottish pubs. This could be a story in itself.

Fri. March 27
Hilly winding roads - drive opposite side of road and drive very fast
Drove to Hamilton Ice rink early morning (approx. 30 miles), enroute visited Robbie Burns cottage and toured Andrew Kay and Co., manufacturers of curling stones. We witnessed all stages of making a stone from a rough square block of granite to the finished product. Met Hamilton reps at Ayr Ice Rink at 12:30. Lunched at Lanarkshire Ice Rink at 1:30. Played Hamilton reps at 3. Another decisive victory. Dined at ice rink and then returned to various Hamilton billets.

Sat. March 28
Left Hamilton 9:15 a.m. Drove about 20 miles. Arrived in Stirling (still hilly and winding roads) in time for 10 a.m. draw. Played a Stirling rink and had a fairly easy win. Luncheon at Stirling Ice Rink 1 p.m. Left for Perth at 2:30 p.m. a distance of approximately 50 miles. Now on a four-lane highway, more densely populated. At 5:30 p.m. played the two sons of Chuck Hay, the Scottish National Curling Coach - at one time a world champion. Mr. Hay was in Canada at the time, coaching the Scottish Team at the Silver

Broom in London, Ont. It was in Perth where the Scots scored their

Wed. April 1
Arrived Glasgow airport 9:30 a.m.

Glenn Howard, Peter Mount, Paul Harbottle and Tim Tully of Midland have been recuperating from their very successful trip to Scotland where they played Scottish curling rinks on the March Break.

The four boys won the trip in the Sun Life Insurance Company-Toronto Curling Association Invitational Junior Men's Curling Bonspiel early this year.

We asked the boys to give us a brief account of their trip, that following.

decisive victory. All four of us billeted separately on large lush farms. High Tea at the Perth rink - we loved their system of four meals a day. That night we took in a Scottish Disco. Very much the same as ours at home.

Sun. March 29
Left Perth 10 a.m. travelled to Edinburgh - roughly 50 minutes. Played Murrayfield Rink and due to a bell system (teams allotted a specific time limit to play when the bell rings you can only complete the end you are in). We finished with a tie. Lunch at Murrayfield rink. Back to home of one of the Edinburgh hosts who opened his home to all eight curlers and Mr. and Mrs. Palmer. Unable to adequately describe their hospitality.

Mon. March 30
Breakfast at 9 a.m. Shortly after we had a 2 1/2 hour tour of Edinburgh. Beautiful city. At the end of tour we had 3 hours to shop on Princess Street. Left for Gogar Park, Edinburgh for our 3 p.m. game - another win for us. Dined at Gogar Park. About 7:30 that evening we departed for about a 30 mile jaunt to Glasgow. Most of the trip was through built up areas. Overnight with Glasgow billets who we met at the Corssmyloof Ice Rink.

Tue. March 31
Breakfast with billets. Curled at 10 a.m. at Crossmyloof. Lost the game on the last shot. Ice conditions quite different from Canadian standards. Sheets not level and very unpredictable. Lunch at ice rink. Second game of the day was mixed. Both Canadian rinks won their games. Back to the billets for "high tea". At 7:30 dined on Italian food in a Scottish restaurant. Returned to billets for our last overnight in Scotland.

airport). While awaiting our departure from London, we met the Gammell family from Midland returning from an overseas visit on the same aircraft we were on. Left London 1:30 p.m. Arrived in Montreal about 3:45 p.m. Departed at 4:15 p.m. Shortly after lift off, our plane was struck by lightning and fortunately no injuries or damage was sustained. Arrived safely at Toronto International at 5:15 p.m. By the time we reached home and got to bed, we had been up for

21 hours. Despite total fatigue, it was an experience that we will remember forever. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate in having had the support of many merchants in the community as well as the members of our Club. The friendships we have made with our Scottish counterparts will stay with us for many years to come. We are grateful to the Sun Life Company and the Toronto Curling Association for accepting our entry into the Bonspiel and sin-

cerely hope we will be able to try again another year.

As a matter of interest to the local curlers, in Scotland, one ice rink is used by many clubs. All the communities in the surrounding area form their own clubs, with their own crests and pins and then they work out schedules to accommodate each club to use the one ice rink. In many places they curl from Monday to Friday and skate on the same ice surface from Friday night until Sunday evening, when they begin to prepare the ices once again for the week's curling. To a curler this will indicate the conditions one might meet in the way of ice surfaces. It was tricky, irregular, but tremendously interesting. It might also be a reason why the last two world Junior Cham-

pions have been Scottish. They can curl under any conditions. None of us could be considered seasoned world travellers, but we would have to say the Scottish people have to be among the world's most hospitable and generous people.

Because Peter Wilson, the current World Junior Champion, had missed so much work while he was in France this year, he was unable to give us a game, but after each day's work he would motor us to wherever we were to spend the evenings with us. We spent many hours discussing curling, Canada and Scotland.

Fortunately, we just missed a bout of weather and we enjoyed similar weather there as you were having here.

Glenn, Paul, Peter and Tim

Departed 10:15 for London (Heathrow)

Ball hockey draft open to residents

If you wish to play senior ball hockey in the Midland-Penetanguishene Ball Hockey League, you are asked

to call Bill Puddicombe, Jr. at 549-7914 between 5 and 8 p.m. weeknights. To be eligible for the draft for the league you

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The league games are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays



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