

## Report of the British Open Championships 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The British Open Wheelchair Curling Championships were held at Hamilton Ice Rink 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The competition, which is one of the blue-ribbon events in the Scottish Wheelchair Curling Calendar would crown our new champions. This year we had 9 teams compete against each other to claim the British Open title in the annual event which brings together the best teams both across Scotland and from further afield.

Among the teams competing were Germany, British Curling & England. Germany, who will be playing in the Worlds at Stirling in March, this was a great test for them going into the World Championships. Team Euan have put in impressive performances in the past and they were hoping they could find that consistency again as they would also be a force to be reckoned with. However, one can never underestimate any of the teams competing, and this was proved on several occasions over the competition.

The Championship comprised of a Round Robin Competition. The outright winners being the team that tops the League. Due to Team Germany being a late entry and the unavailability of the extra session on day 3 not being available it was decided that Germany would play 8 games (playing a game more than the other teams taking part ) there would be a blind draw to find the team against whom their score would not count towards their final total (This would remain sealed and unknown to **all** until after the final games had been played).

There were some very finely fought games and some unexpected results along the way. The nail biting continued going into the final games played in the final session on Tuesday. Even after the games had been completed the result could not be fully

determined until after the “Sealed Envelope for Germany” had been opened.

Once the envelope was opened the final placings for the top 3 spots were finally decided with Team Euan coming out on top with Team England 2<sup>nd</sup> and Germany 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As always we owe a great debt of gratitude towards our army of Volunteers who once again did us proud, this enabled all the games to run smoothly and on time, a huge THANK YOU to you all. The ice men gave us at times some testing conditions and we also give thanks to them as well as the Umpires Jim Stewart and Jack Muir. The Catering staff under the guidance of Stuart ensured everyone was adequately fed and watered.

Planning is now in place for the Scottish Championships which will be played this year at Kinross Ice Rink on 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> March. We wish all the teams participating a very healthy and competitive Competition.