



All too soon the round robin was gone, Muck Rackers, Ken and Liz Horton, Rosemary Biggart and Austin Brown beat Isle of Maybes, Don and Maggie Rutherford, Carolyn Hibberd and Dawn Watson in the High Road.

Andy and Rhona Robinson, Alex and Alison McLennan, Raasay Ramblers, took the mid road title beating the Fara Ways, Alan and Joyce McLennan, Jim and Liz Jamieson.

And the low road title went to the Cumbrae Crusaders, Graeme and Julia Adam, Jack and Norma

Steven, they beat Hugh and Christine Stewart, Colin and Elaine Semple, the Mull Marauders.



The curling was great thanks to ice men Dante Coguo and Salvatore Stramandinolo.



The serious bit was over time to celebrate at the Macumba Restaurant, deep in a wine cellar, was there a message here.....did we need years below ground to mature?

Tiziana Alchera, deputy mayor of Pinerolo, welcomed the Reform Touring Club, and thanks to translation from Fiona Simpson we got the message.



Too soon it was all over, all we had to look forward to was packing and heading for home.

The trip to Pinerolo had been great and many thanks must go to Eros Gonin, Dan Raphael, Lorenzo Piatti, Fiona Simpson and the two Italian teams for making us so welcome and organising a great time for all.

Words by Christine Stewart

Photos by Hugh Stewart and David Robertson

**Grazie mille.**



## PINEROLO REFORMER



### RTC Pinerolo 12 -17 October 2011

40 members of Reform Touring Club packed their curling shoes and brushes and headed for Pinerolo, Italy.

And they were following in illustrious footsteps, back in 2006 Pinerolo hosted the best curlers in the world for the Olympic Games, back then Anette Norberg won her first Olympic Gold medal while Brad Gushue took Gold back home to Canada.

But this is 2011, who would take the title of Reform Touring Club champion?



Day one, 12<sup>th</sup> October, was travelling day, Glasgow to Gatwick then on to Turin, all went smoothly and after a 40 minute coach trip from Turin Reform Touring Club arrived at the Hotel Barrage in Pinerolo.. Day two and we were off to Turin to see the sights

ably led by Danilo Capriolo, Mario Bologna and Lorenzo Piatti. We had two hours in Turin seeing the sights including the home of the Turin Shroud. And what a beautiful city it is, amazing architecture, beautiful churches, and piazzas, just where do you start?





Then it was time for lunch, that meant back on the bus and up the hill to the Basilica di Superga. 2,198 feet or 670 metres, above sea level, the venue gave us a great view of the city and for the football fans a sight of the new Juventus stadium, opened in September this year. With the

midday sun shining it was the ideal place for our packed lunch.

Then some time to explore Turin or just to sit in the sunshine and enjoy a glass of wine or the truly wonderful Italian coffee, now that was a caffeine hit!



But to the serious business in hand, after all we were there to curl. So the teams were drawn out of a hat, the team names perhaps gave some clue to the game plan, Muck Rackers, Barra Brawlers, Mull Marauders, Fara Ways, now what planet were they on?



The Reform teams were joined by Pinerolo Olympic and the Piedmont Curlers. Now was there a familiar face there? Could that possibly be Fiona Simpson, who learned her curling at Greenacres, be masquerading as an Italian?



Yes it was! Fiona is married to an Italian and has lived near Turin for many years, still curling and thank goodness fluent in Italian.

The venue was a three sheeter right next door to the Olympic Stadium. At 9a.m. on the dot the first stones were thrown, every team faced



five games in two sections and the top six would make it to the final games.



The curling rink had a great timing system. An electronic clock started at

one hour 50 minutes, it ticked away quietly and in due time the hooter blasted out, so no arguments about the end of the games.



Between games the teams got a great welcome in the stadium café, the wine was flowing the pasta was coming up a' the time. Many thanks to them.

And we did have a brief visit from Mediaset Rete 4, an Italian TV station, of course interested in the Italian teams!