Curling at Fenton’s, 2nd December 2017

In what is becoming an annual event in early December, members and guests from Kent Local Section and beyond met at England’s only curling rink near Tonbridge Wells to practice for the 2018 winter Olympics in South Korea. The participants were a mixture of ‘regulars’ i.e. those who had embarrassed themselves on the rink in previous years, and newcomers. The participants ranged from 18 to 80 and included members, guests and partners as well as RSC staff member Stephanie Comte from the Networks team and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience. In a first this year we were joined by a team from overseas as members of the Belgian Local Section of the RSC led by Tim Reynolds (Tim and Stephanie are pictured below). Overall the standard of play ranged from the mediocre through to the sheer fluke! The game looks deceptively simple; just launch your stone on the ice and land it squarely in the centre of the ‘bullseye’ – how difficult can it be? Well it isn’t that easy or at least based on our experiences it doesn’t seem so! Judging the exact effort required to launch the stone so that it actually reaches the target area and doesn’t go sailing through and crash into the boarding at the back is definitely tricky. A main attraction of curling is that strength, fitness or physical size have no bearing on how successful you will be at the game – it really is all down to skill……or lack of it!

In order to give us the energy for the ‘battle on ice’, we all met around 1245 at Fenton’s for a lunch of lasagne (there should also have been lemon drizzle cake but I forgot to order it - maybe that was why some folk didn’t fulfil their potential in the curling which followed?) and then it was time for a short, intensive coaching session following which we were on the ice for a quick practice session! After that it was ‘let battle commence’! This year the event was over-subscribed and so there were 30 of us which made it difficult to run a ‘team competition’. However as you can see from the action shots below, there was plenty of furious competition and even the odd flash of skill!
Despite our inexperience it did get somewhat competitive though no clear winning team emerged. The main thing was that those taking part had an afternoon of fun coupled with some fairly gentle exercise 😊

If you are interested in curling see http://www.fentonsrink.co.uk/ - we had such a good time we have provisionally booked Fenton’s again on 8th December 2018 so watch out for an e-alert or check on the KLS web site for full information nearer the time

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