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. Judging from the standard of play on show I fear we will all have to practice for millennia to even achieve mediocrity. 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 very would seem to be our verdict. 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 my case! 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.

We all met in time for a lunch of lasagne and cake 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’! We split into six teams of four, which played each other in a ‘round robin’ with 2 points for a win and one for a draw.
So what about the results? Well the winners of the wooden spoon were Carter’s Curlers (below left) although several other teams ran them close for this dubious honour while the winning team, ‘The King Curlers’ (below right), showed the value of weeks of intensive training and a strict dietary regime 😊

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 2nd December 2017 so watch out for an e-alert or check on the KLS web site for full information nearer the time

Dave Alker (KLS Secretary)