One further benefit of Partick Curling Club’s secluded location is the survival of eight original lamp posts, installed by the side of the rinks in 1911 in order to ensure that whenever there was ice, bad light would not stop play. No doubt hoping to attract new members, the club placed notices to this effect in the Evening Citizen. But then curlers have always had to seize the moment. Kilmarnock had a club which played at dawn, before the players started work, while elsewhere it was common to play by lantern light. Bingham’s Pond had electric lighting as early as 1882, barely three years after incandescent bulbs were invented. One of Partick’s hardier members was ‘Long’ John Anderson, 6’5” tall, who in 1842 apparently played non-stop for 36 hours, much of that time by candlelight. Anderson was still playing at the age of 86, proof that cold air and plenty of liquid nourishment may be just what the doctor ordered.

In 1857 the club moved to a new pond on Peel Street (where Dyce Lane is now), just north of where a few years later the West of Scotland cricket ground was laid out (see page 176). For £6 they had erected a wooden pavilion, which a Mr Anderson then offered to paint with imitation bricks. Their final move to Victoria Park, which had opened in 1887, came in 1894, courtesy of a 20 year lease at £7 per annum, negotiated with the Town Council. Next door to the site was Partick Tennis Club. Fortunately for the curlers, if not the tennis players, their first eight years in the park coincided with a series of exceptionally cold winters, so they were quite content to curl on a conventional pond. (Down in London during the same period curlers reported enjoying around fifteen days of ice per year). Partick were also fortunate to have wealthy patrons. The pavilion, its architect unknown, was endowed by Bailie William Kennedy, while the two artificial rinks, opened two years later in 1902, were gifted by M Hunter Kennedy (himself a prominent player) and John G Kennedy. Ironically, the opening in 1907 of the new indoor ice rink at Crossmyloof meant that members would spend less and less time at Victoria Park as the century wore on. But on the plus side, this has resulted in the pavilion remaining virtually untouched. A hidden gem it may be therefore, but it is a wonderfully unspoilt one too.