

The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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Volume 10, Issue 3

February 2009

A word from your president...

Fellow Members

Where has the time gone. It only feels like yesterday that we were throwing our first rocks of the season and here it is time for our third edition of The Sweep.

The club is doing well with very few issues to handle. I don't have a lot to say without echoing what will be said by the various sections.

On a sad note though, we have lost a couple of old friends. *Fred Leduc* passed away a few weeks ago. Fred was President of the Kingston Curling Club in 1986/87.

Also, we have lost *Jean Breen* who passed away Jan 19th. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Mike and Family.

I wish you all the best. Good Curling

Wayne Gilmour

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Remembering Fred Leduc...

by Judy Russell

On January 3rd, 2009, the Royal Kingston Curling Club lost an old friend. *Fred Leduc* was a member, president, tireless volunteer and sponsor. You name

it - anything that KCC/RKCC needed, he made it happen. He built the bar in the old club on Clergy Street. One championship night, the ladies flight league winners complained that their trophy couldn't hold celebratory liquid (an important Championship-night ritual) - the next year our sponsor (Fred) had made us a brand new trophy, complete with shiny bowl.

Fred was my instructor at both my first and second clinics. At the first clinic, I freaked him out a bit - I had to leave the ice doubled over in pain. The next year I was back again, complete with 6 inch scar.

This time there were 2 of us with the same name in Fred's group of newbies. "No problem", said Fred, with his wolfish grin. He pointed at each of us in turn "That's Judy with a gall bladder, that's Judy without a gall bladder".

Fred didn't just teach me to curl, he taught me to be a curler. On the ice - do your best but laugh at the misses and above all, have fun. Off the ice, do what you can to make your club a better place. He will be missed.



Congratulations to *Mary Skeggs* for her recent induction into the Kingston & District Sports Hall of Fame! What an honour.

Mary Skeggs -- Athlete (fastball, hockey). All round, outstanding athlete to this day, in fastball, bowling, volleyball, hockey and curling.

Mary Skeggs born in Kingston June 21, 1953. Mary would be classified as an all round athlete. Starting as a kid in the C.A.L. Softball and Bowling leagues, through her high school years at QECVI 1967-1971. At QECVI she was named top athlete for 4 of her 5 years, playing on 2 EOSSA Volleyball Championships in 1968-1970. Mary started to play in the ladies softball league at the young age of 13. She played on many league championship teams and won many awards along the way.

In 1974, Mary was added to the roster of the Milverton Millwrights for the Canadian Junior Womens softball championships. The team made it to the semi-finals losing to Vancouver. Playing either shortstop or pitching she was named most valuable pitcher and most valuable all round player. In 1975, she spent the summer playing for the Milverton Suns in the Ontario Senior A league. Milverton lost the final game of the playoffs 1—0 to the Canadian Champions Kitchener Kieswetters, with Skeggs taking the loss, with only giving up 4 hits.

In 1972, Skeggs started playing for the Kingston Red Barons. Not a strong skater she was able to protect other players and pick the garbage goals up from in front of the net. The Red Barons were one of the best female hockey teams in the 1970's. At first her team mates likened her to a bull in a china shop but quickly became an adequate skater and within a year had become one of the teams leading scorers.

In 1971, Mary started to curl. Just like softball and hockey, she wanted to succeed. In 1994, she played in her first Carrie Cole final which is the top female award at Royal Kingston Curling Club. Since then she has represented the evening ladies four more times, being runner up three times and winning once.

In 2007 she was a member of the winning flight team skipped by Mary Paterson.

Now Mary has given back to the game with coaching Mite Ball, Junior Ball and being Games Captain at Amherstview Golf Club and Royal Kingston Curling Club.



Day Ladies

by Lin Jenkins

Day Ladies' Christmas celebrations started off with an invitation to Cataraqui Golf and Curling Club on December $3^{\rm rd}$. The Cat. Ladies entertained our Flight teams with games and curling and finished

off with a delicious luncheon which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. They will be invited back to our club on March 4th when we will host a Fun Day with them.

Our Christmas Spiel, now named the Kings Town Snowflake Spiel held on Dec. 10th was so successfully run by *Sandy Duncan* and *Zak Siebin* that it won't soon be forgotten by the membership. The winners were *Lin Jenkins, Marilyn Chilton, Jill Spettigue* and new member *Wendy Dutton*.

The first half of our curling season has seen tiebreakers and play-off games completed. The winners of the TRI HEAT TROPHY was Jan Ray and her team of Gwen Mitchell, Katy Provan and Sheila McKirdy. They were successful over Marg McDonald's team of Norma Burns, Linda Watts-Dagnone and new member Anita McPhail.

The EDWARDS TROPHY winner was finally declared on January 14 in a play-off game between the *Judy Sly* team and the *Marg McDonald* team. The winner was *Marg McDonald, Jane Kelly, Nancy Morrow* and new member *Cathy Faubert*. Runners-up were *Judy Sly, Denise Mulville, Jill Spettigue* sparing for *Bonnie Bird,* and *Teresa Wilson*. This team went six games undefeated for the Tuesday Draw.

Day Ladies would like to extend their congratulations to *Mary Skeggs* in recognition of her athletic pros and induction into the Kingston Sports Hall of Fame. Mary is a very valued member of our club and we are proud to curl along side her in our section.

Our biggest and most prestigious bonspiel is coming up on March 25th and *Sue McConnell* and committee are gearing up for a wonderful day. This spiel "Grandmother's and Great Aunts" is so popular that some clubs will have to have their total number of entries capped due to over participation.

The buzzer system is now beginning to be part of our game of curling and the membership is accepting its viability. An extra few minutes leeway in our games has made play more comfortable for the membership.

Evening Ladies

by Betty Bush

In November, our annual Evening Ladies Spiel was held with 24 teams participating. *Mary Paterson, Joanne Manion, Mary Skeggs* and *Kathy King* and many volunteers did a superb job in organizing "Christmas in November" and treating us to fantastic meals, prizes and good curling. It is obvious that they spent many hours in preparing before the actual day. Many thanks for the tremendous job!!!

Mary Skeggs, a long time curler at RKCC was recently nominated and will subsequently be inducted into the Kingston Sports Hall of Fame. We all know what a fierce competitor she is in curling not to mention golf, fastball and hockey. Her desire to win is never overshadowed by her true sportsmanship regardless of the outcome. Well done, Mary — we are so proud of you and your accomplishments.

Our Special Events ladies – *Lynn Witheridge* and *Pam Davison* will soon begin planning the Ladies Closing Dinner. They guarantee that you will not want to miss it!!! Watch for tickets to come on sale!!!

Club Curling

Our season is now into the second half. It's hard to believe we're 1/2 halfway through the season and getting closer to the warmer weather.

Our first qualifier for the Carrie Cole playoffs is *Lil Rynbend* and her team of *Lynn Witheridge* (vice), *Pat Payne* (second) and *Sandy Fairbairn* at lead. The Second Event winner was *Betty Bush* with *Nancy Roantree, Bev Townsend* and *Jane Cooper*.

The Third Event went to Georgia Lee O'Shaughnessy and her rink of Debbie Gillespie, Karen Peters and Trish Beckett.

The winner of the 2nd draw and 2nd qualifier for the Carrie Cole Playoffs was *Brenda Charette* and her team made up of *Jennine Reid* (vice), *Jody Allum* (second) and *Dot May*. The Second Event winner was *Donna Smith* playing with *Joanne Gizzi, Pat Payne* and *Michelle Vermette*. Winning Third Event was *Kathy Brown* with *Lynn Witheridge*,

Angela Sproule and Jane Cooper.

With the New Year came a new draw with our numbers holding steady with 16 teams. Watch the board for up coming events. The annual Fun Night held during March Break is on March 11. If you know someone who wants to try the game this is a good time to bring them out. This is also open to the Day Ladies.

The Evening Ladies In Club Rated Spiel will be held on Sat March 28. Also watch the board for the next draw sheet.

Just a reminder if you need help *Judy Russell* is there at 5:30 on Wednesday nights. Thank you, Judy, for all of your help.

Flight Curling

The Evening Ladies Flight held their Christmas Dinner on December 8 with 44 members enjoying a delicious prime rib dinner catered by Ramekins.

Curling in the first round robin will be completed on February 5. This will be followed by a mini round robin from February 9 until March 30. The team with the most points after the first round robin will be the Round Robin winner. Points earned in both round robins will be used to determine the play-off positions. All games must be completed at the end of each round robin or the offending team will be awarded a default. Play-offs begin on April 6. Top 8 teams will be in "A" division and other 7 teams in "B" division. Games are single knockout. The "A" finalist will play on Championship night, Friday, April 17th.

Good curling!!

Evening Men's

by Gord Rogers



Things are going very smoothly so far this year in the evening men's section. We want to thank all the members for their great support throughout this year so far.

We had 110 attend our Christmas dinner which was catered by Rent-a-Chef (Joe Desousa). Joe is also

booked for our closing dinner Tuesday April 14, Special thanks to Steve Vermeer, Cam Gruer and Mario Fabbro for organizing the Christmas dinner.

The first round of club playoffs featuring draw 1 vs draw 2 winners is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, while Draw 3 and 4 is scheduled for Monday, April 13. If you are playing in any of the games and not able to make those dates, please advise your skip or the men's committee ASAP.

Steve Vermeer is still working on the flight playoff schedules for this year. This will be the first year we have had 4 divisions (A, B, C and D). Top 8 teams in A flight and the top 4 teams in B flight form A division. The bottom 4 teams in A and the middle 4 teams in B form B flight playoff. C flight is made up of bottom 4 teams in B and the top 4 teams in C, while D flight playoff is made up the balance of C flight teams.

Championship night is Friday, April 17th. Please plan on attending. Our event game finals will be Thursday, April 17.



Congratulations to *Vic Matthews* and his team of *Chris Scott, Dave Barr and Dave Bracken* on shooting an 8-ender in Tuesday night flight on Jan 20. The feat

was accomplished without the hammer!

Junior Curling

by Renee LeClair

The curling season is shaping up to be a good one. I'd like to thank all those in charge of the ice for having much faster ice this year as faster ice is very important for small curlers.

This season we instituted a new league for those curlers in a badge program. It has been received very well. There were a few weeks of instruction, to make sure new curlers would feel comfortable throwing a rock, followed by a 6-game draw and more instruction each Sunday. The winners of the first draw were crowned last Sunday and received medals. *Kevin Gibson* skipped his winning team of

Jonathan Pap, Randal Wheeler and Chelsey Baldwin. Draw 2 is underway.

The Junior curlers were treated to a pasta lunch at the Christmas Party on December 14. All indications are that they had a good time – especially with their desserts as they decorated their own gingerbread cookies.

RKCC has three bantam teams in the Eastern Ontario Junior Curling League and we are hosting three EOJCL bonspiels this year. The first of these bonspiels was held on January 18, 2009. It looked like it was a success but no thanks go to me. Many thanks go to the parents of the RKCC EOJCL curlers. It is the parents are organizing these bonspiels and doing a great job!

Curling camps are once again being held during the summer of 2009 in Guelph. Applications are now being accepted with first priority being given to curlers who were in the camp last year and those on last year's waiting list. I will suggest that curlers who wish to attend the camp next year should apply this year and be placed on the waiting list to get priority next year.

As usual, I have to put another thanks out to the coaches and volunteers. It is your tireless efforts which make the program a success! If anyone else is interested in coaching or assisting, let me know. We can always use more hands!

Mixed Curling

by Erwin Batalla

Happy New Year to all mixed curlers.

The mixed curling season is now past the halfway point. The round robin portion of the season will finish at the end of February for teams in the A and B division. Teams in the C division will continue the round robin format until the end of March. The new rule for postponed games has averted a rush to reschedule games at Christmas and we hope that teams will continue to play their games within the three weeks deadline in effect this year.

The 2nd Annual Mixed Recreational (Divisions B & C) Bonspiel was held on November 22nd with 12 teams playing two 6-end games. A delicious lunch was provided by Rent A Chef Catering and everyone had a good day! The winning teams were:1st - Erwin Batalla, Melanie McEwen, Hugh Pollitt-Smith, Alexandra Simmons; 2 n d - Bill Grant, Lynda Therien, David Hallett, Cathy Grant; 3rd - Donna Jeffery, Bruce Jeffery, Sandy Duncan, Ian Duncan; 4th - Ian Henderson, Diane Gratton, Bill Shaver, Jennifer Shaver. Pam and Roger Taylor organized this event with help from their teammates Dean and Deane Clark. Under their leadership, this event has grown from 8 RKCC teams to 12 this year and we hope that we will soon attract 24 teams to it.

The Christmas potluck was held on Fri. December 19 this year. The snowy/blowy weather could have been a real deterrent, but 60 of the 70 who had signed up attended.

Brian Collingwood cooked 3 nine pound hams and with the main dish and desserts which everybody brought, we had plenty of food.

Emil Lindt and *Donna Poirier* did a great job as elf and reindeer at the gift exchange. Emil got right into the spirit of the role, and had everybody in stitches.

Denis Faubert and his group entertained the crowd with a leads and seconds ditty, and got all tables involved in a curling version of the 12 days of Christmas. Thanks to Denis and Cathy Faubert, Kathleen Poole, Michael Braun, and Dwight and Marianne Farrell.

We had plenty of volunteers for the various chores. Many thanks to *Cathy Faubert* and *Claire Dominik* for dinner setup and to our cleanup crew of *Rick Pim, Judy Russell, Mary Lindt, Marilyn Chilton, Joyce MacDonald, and Terri Armstrong. Garry Dupuis* helped with announcing and Gerry and Julie did their usual fine job at the bar.

In spite of the weather, the evening was a great success. We thank the 60 hardy souls who made it out and *April Welsh* for organizing this event.

The Mixed Playoffs will begin on the weekend of March 6. All teams will play at least two games and most will play four. The position of teams in the draw will be determined from the final standings which will not be fully known until the last week of

round robin. The playoff schedule will be posted on the board and on the net as soon as possible. Because of these times constraints, it is especially crucial to play the games as scheduled and to find spares if you are unable to. Spares in the playoffs must have played at least two games in the Mixed section during the regular season. This year, the spares used in all playoff games must be approved by the convenor. Please check the website for information.

At our Awards Dinner on March 29, the winner of all the events in each division will be recognized. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of divisions B and C and to all the mixed curlers at the dinner. Tickets for the evening, including a catered supper, will be \$12 per person and we will begin selling them in February. We are looking for volunteers to help us out with this event which should be the culminating point of our season.

The Landings Stick Leaque

by Phil Neatby

The Stick Committee appreciates the positive feedback from you all. The format for The Landings Stick League has been good fun for the old hands as well as those new to stick play. The improvement in skill is apparent to all, as is the enjoyment in each others' company.

The fun 'spiel in December was a good outing. Our special thanks to *Diane Labrie* for the great soup and the intellectual challenges, and to *Marian Neatby* and *Alice Simpson* for their help with the lunch.

The Committee has been brooding about next year.

- a. The first absolute is that the present format for The Landings Stick League will continue. We had examined the possibility of two games a week, but as all but about 4 of us are deeply involved in other Club curling, another stick game would overload most of us. What we have works well, so why change it?
- b. We are certain that the number of

- participants will grow next year. This will complicate scheduling, and we may have to break down the League into two sections to fit the added numbers in. This will be threshed out at the Curling Committee meetings in June, and if we can, we will stick to the single round-robin.
- c. It is inevitable that in the future, as stick curling becomes even more common, there will be interest in inter-club stick competition. Some of the stick curlers in the Club now may be interested in this extension of the sport. The Committee is investigating this possibility with other local clubs, and will be canvassing our own members for interest. If there is an interest in the Club and outside, the Committee would consider a small, separate league next year, and perhaps an Invitational 'Spiel a year from now. We will keep you posted.

The Landings Stick League finals will be on the 8^{th} and 15^{th} of April, and the closing luncheon after the finals on the 15^{th} . Watch the Notice Board for details.

Competitive Stick Curling

The Stick Committee is anticipating a growing interest in a more competitive venue for stick curling in the Club, and extension of this into inter-Club play with local Clubs.

To this end, the Committee will be investigating options and interest with Cataraqui, Gananoque and Napanee, and the possibility of running an invitational bonspiel in 2010.

If you are interested in taking part in 2010, (whether or not you are playing in The Landings Stick League now), please contact *Phil Neatby*, (613) 389-1519, or pneatby@cogeco.ca.



An update on the work of the Strategic Business Planning Committee

by Tony Bush

For the past ten months a group of volunteers have been working on developing a Strategic Business Plan for the Club. This project was undertaken as a result of discussions that occurred at last year's Annual General Meeting. At every step in the development of this document your Board of Directors has been apprised of its design and direction. In recent meetings the President and Vice Presidents have been equal participants.

Over the next few months it is our intention to launch a comprehensive Communication Plan to inform all members of the work and deliberations in which we are engaged. In the next week you will receive, via email (or post if we don't have an email address for you), a letter providing an overview of the Business Plan. In mid-February we will outline, in another letter, a schedule of information meetings to which we encourage members attend. The "Draft" Strategic Business Plan will be the focus of these important sessions. This second letter will outline exactly how and when we plan to continue the communication process. It will ask for your participation, questions and involvement in the development of this necessary and important document.

Ladies Bonspiel Report

by Mary Paterson and comittee – Kathy King, Joanne Manion and Mary Skeggs.

The Ladies Annual Bonspiel was held on November 15, 2008 with the theme, "Christmas in November". Twenty - four teams from curling clubs in Perth, Napanee, Gananoque, Cataraqui and RKCC enjoyed this two game points bonspiel. There were several very close games decided by a draw to the button and very few points separated the winning teams.

The winner of the first place \$400 cash prize was the RKCC rink of *Carole Rivington, Teresa Gibson, April Welsh*, and *Gail Irving*. Two game winners were the teams skipped by *Sharon Suddergaard* (Cataraqui), *Betty Bush* (RKCC), *Tracy Mitchell* (RKCC), *Marg Hutchinson* (RKCC), and *Colleen Bennett* (RKCC). High one game winners were the teams skipped by *Joan Doucet* (RKCC), and *Pauline Herron* (RKCC).

Special thanks go to *Carolyn Green* for the "marvellous muffins" and fruit loaves, to *Brian Collingwood* for his "savoury soup", to *Kathy King* for the "rave-about wraps", to *Bill Duffe* for the "terrific turkey" dinner, and to *Jim Lesley* for the "awesome apple crisp".

There were many others who worked tirelessly in the kitchen or beforehand to make this a successful bonspiel. Our thanks to *Grant Paterson, Lois McKeown, Kathy Warwick, Lorrie Woodcock, Heather Declair, Chuck White, Jamie Duffe and Jim Rines.*



The Ice Report

by John Berry

We are now well into the second half of our curling season, and our ice conditions are continuing to be excellent, thanks to Icemakers *Rod Leeder*, and *Terry Barker*, who continue to look for even better ways to improve your ice.

During the summer and fall of 2008, *Vic Matthews* instituted mechanical improvements to our Ice Shed heating and dehumidification systems to ensure better atmospheric conditions above the ice.

Major ice maintenance was performed in November, resulting in the ice being keen, but quite straight the first week after, with curl coming back to normal in the second week.

The second major ice maintenance carried out just

before the New Year had similar results, with ice conditions remaining excellent. Feedback from our Membership has been very positive, with expressed satisfactions compared to last years ice, much higher.

We were waiting for cold weather, to determine it's affect on ice conditions, and physical comforts in the ice shed. With night time temperatures dropping to the minus 28°C to 30°C in the middle of January, it appears that the mechanical changes made to the heating, and dehumidification systems have achieved positive results, with our ice conditions holding up, and the shed comfort zone maintained.

Attaboy Vic, on behalf of the Membership, Thank You!

The final major ice maintenance of the season, will take place Feb. 15, 16, & 17^{th,} following the Empire Life Bonspiel.

Hopefully our ice conditions will continue to be excellent throughout the rest of the season, players can help by refraining from placing hands, knees, or other body parts on the ice, which results in breakdown of the underlying pebble.

See you on the ice, Good Curling, John Berry

Sponsorship/Advertising Committee

Bruce Jeffery (Chair), Dan O'Neill, Brad Finch and Garry Dupuis

RKCC is fortunate to have a beautiful new home, great staff and a vibrant membership, including countless volunteers who are extremely generous with their time and effort to make our club a place to be proud of, both on and off the ice.

With the pleasure of having a new facility in which to curl comes the reality that the cost of operating and maintaining it are significant and will challenge us to generate sufficient revenues from various sources to avoid overburdening our membership with fee increases. We must not allow ourselves to become complacent with our current healthy

financial position and need to continue to work hard to generate the revenues necessary to maintain our facility in a manner that makes us proud to be members of such a great club.

One important source of revenue for RKCC is achieved from Sponsorship/Advertising fees provided by the generous support of a loyal group of local firms and businesses. Fifty "Wall Sponsors" and six "Ice Sponsors" generate almost twenty five thousand dollars annually for our club when fully Needless to say, these funds are subscribed. significant and important to the operation of RKCC and we are extremely grateful to these supporters for their generosity. In addition to the funds provided in this regard, many of these same businesses further support our club through the donation of goods and services, in response to requests from bonspiel organizers, as prizes or to help underwrite an event.

Of course, these companies are sure to appreciate the business of our members and guests as a means of showing our appreciation to them and RKCC is pleased to encourage you to consider our sponsors when you are shopping for any goods and services that they provide. Many of our sponsors are fellow RKCC members and friends and a sincere thank you for their generosity to our club from a fellow curler is likely to be appreciated at any time.

Although our sponsor wall is nearly full, there is room for a few more signs, at the moment, in addition to one sheet of ice that is available for sponsorship and we take this opportunity to encourage you to consider acquiring one of these spaces for your company or business. If not appropriate for yourself, perhaps you are acquainted with an individual who would appreciate knowing of an opportunity to promote their business in a pleasant and active environment at very reasonable rates.

Please consider contacting one of our Committee members with any suggestions you might have and thank you for your support of RKCC in whatever form it may take.

New Buzzer Times

The **curling committee** has implemented the following times to the buzzer system effective since Monday Jan 12, 2009.

-	Start time	Buzzer time
Mon to Fri mornings	8:30am	10:05am
Mon, Tue mornings	10:45am	12:20pm
Tue, Wed, Thu afternoons	1:15pm	2:50pm
Wed evenings	6pm, 8pm	NO buzzer
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri evenings	5:10pm	6:40pm
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri evenings	7:15pm	8:45pm
Mon, Tue, Fri evenings	9:15pm	NO buzzer
Sat evenings	6pm	7:30pm
Sat evenings	8pm	NO buzzer



Please email your submissions for the **April Sweep** to Carole Rivington at carolenr62@cogeco.ca no later than **March 16, 2009.**

Thank you!





Golf Tournament

The 5th annual RKCC golf tournament will be held at Camden Braes on Thursday, June 11th, 2009.

A full course roast beef dinner will be provided at the Curling Club following golf. The price will remain the same as last year (\$50). This tournament is an opportunity to have a great day with friends and is a key fund raiser for our Club. Last year we had a full turnout and raised over \$4,000.

The sign-up sheet will be posted in the Club in February. Please sign up early so you don't miss it.

Steve Quinn

There is NO kitchen fairy!



PLEASE clean up after yourself. Don't leave it for someone else!!



Printing of this Sweep complements of

