



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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February 2015

A word from your President... Mike Schneider

We're past the halfway point in the 2014-2015 season so I thought I'd give you an update on the impact of the initiatives I wrote about at the start of the season.

You may remember that last year rising costs (particularly Hydro costs) and flat membership fee revenue meant we were unable to put enough money away to fund expected future capital replacement costs. In other words, our budget wasn't balanced.

To get back to a balanced budget this year we faced three options; cut costs, raise fees by significantly more than inflation or increase membership. The board elected to place our focus on reducing our hydro utilization and increasing membership.

So how are we doing? In short, 50/50.

While our new recruiting initiatives (e.g. the Novice League and the Weekday Learn to Curl program) were very successful in adding additional new members to RKCC, we continued the recent trend of losing an offsetting number of existing members. As a result, membership is flat compared to last year. We therefore only had a small increase in year over year membership fees (from the modest fee increase applied to this year's dues).

During the first half of the season a number of initiatives aimed at reducing our hydro utilization were implemented by our Operations Committee and ice Technicians. November was the first month that all these initiatives were in place for the full month. Happily, our November hydro bill showed a 20% decrease in utilization versus the average utilization for the previous two Novembers. Unfortunately the vagaries in Hydro One's rate structure meant the decrease in utilization was offset by an increase in rates for the month. Thus while we haven't made significant inroads in reducing our year to date hydro costs, we are confident that the ongoing decreased utilization will result in lower annual costs as and when the (seemingly

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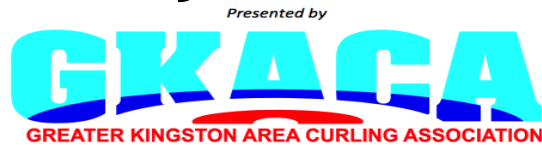
Next Sweep!



random) fluctuations in monthly rates start working in our favour.

In closing, I hope everyone is thoroughly enjoying their 2014-2015 curling experience!

Greater Kingston Continental Cup



On March 21st RKCC will host the first ever Greater Kingston Continental Cup (presented by the GKACA). Two teams of 42 curlers from the area's five clubs (Catarauqui, Gananoque, Garrison, Napanee and RKCC) will compete in 5 different events (Ladies, Men's, Mixed, Mixed Doubles and Skins) in a fun filled day at our club. It's an opportunity to meet (and compete alongside) curlers from the other 4 area clubs. RKCC has been allotted 20 positions (10 Men and 10 Women) which will be split evenly between the two (Red and White) teams. As of February 1, there were still 10 positions available on a first come, first served basis.

So why not sign up and experience the fun first hand? For \$25 you get two or three games, lunch and a pile of memories with new friends. The sign up sheet is at the bar. Hurry hard!!

Betty Bush / Mike Schneider
(RKCC Continental Cup Team Captains)

Committee Reports

Social Committee

Pennie Robert, Chair

"Please join us at the club on Shrove **Tuesday, February 17**, for a pancake dinner. It will be from 5 pm to 8 pm, cost is \$8/person and is open to the public. Dinner includes pancakes, sausage, coffee/tea. Hope to see you there.



SHROVE TUESDAY

On **Saturday, March 14** please join us for our annual St. Patty's Dance. Steve Cheesman and The Heeters will be providing the entertainment. Tickets are \$15/person and is open to the public so tell your friends!!"

A festive poster for a St. Patrick's Dance. The background is light blue with green shamrocks and white dots. At the top, a leprechaun in a top hat is shown. The text 'St. Patrick's DANCE' is written in a large, green, stylized font. Below this, the date and time 'March 14, 2015 8:00pm' are listed. The band 'Steve Cheesman and The Heeters' is mentioned. The venue is 'Royal Kingston Curling Club, 130 Days Rd. Kingston'. The ticket price is '\$15.00 PER PERSON'. At the bottom, it says 'Tickets are available at the bar.' and 'Contact Graham Weatherby at 613-546-2243 for more information'. Silhouettes of a leprechaun and a harp are also present.

Curling Committee

Betty Bush, Chair

City Championships - Committee has been struck to determine why teams do not wish to participate.

Kitchen – Joanne Gizzi is looking for volunteers from each section to supervise kitchen clean up when their section has used the kitchen.

Budget- Section heads were advised of what their budgets. Prizes for Championship Night are paid for from the respective section budgets.

OCA – A reminder that RKCC should only commit to Regional competition and no more than two per year. Time Clocks i.e., buzzer – Members must get accustomed to playing quickly.

Continental Cup – March 21 at RKCC

Handbook – Section Heads are to review what is in the

Handbook and advise of any changes.

Practice Time – Teams should be discouraged from playing scheduled games during this time.

Succession Policies and Terms of Reference for Day Men, Day Ladies, Stick, Mixed and Evening Ladies were approved by the Board and will be included in the Policy and Resource Manual.



A LOOK at the BUDGET

Finance Committee

John Ryce, Chair

Your Finance Committee has been busy working on the 2015/16 budget. I would like to stress that we are in pretty good financial shape but we are still falling short of reaching our annual budget targets. The Operations Committee has taken some steps to help reduce some of the rising electrical costs but our real opportunity is in generating more revenue for the club.

We really need to increase our membership and make better use of our club which also brings in additional dollars. Talk to a friend, neighbor or family member about trying out the sport of curling and joining our club. Ask Graham for a free “learn to curl” coupon.

Having a birthday party, anniversary or office function? Why not talk to Graham about the use of our bar and lounge area.

If everyone did a little more we can make sure that we reach and exceed our annual target.

Any questions or ideas can be directed to myself or any member of the Finance Committee which includes:

Karen Matheson,
Rob Campbell,
Brian Ward,
Paul Cridland,
Donna Poirier and
Graham Weatherby

Thanks and enjoy the rest of the season!

Member-At-Large

Martha Tanner, Chair



At its January board meeting, in response to concerns expressed by some members of the club, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to ban the use of electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes in the Royal Kingston Curling Club. Health Canada is still advising against the use of electronic smoking products, as these may pose health risks and have not been fully evaluated for safety, quality and efficacy. Similarly, the World Health Organization has called for regulations to end the use of e-cigarettes in public and in the workplace, and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety advises that e-cigarettes not be allowed in the workplace until more is known about their effects on health.

Also in response to concerns of a few members, the board will look at how it can best serve those members who do not have a computer and do not wish to register online. Although the new online registration process had a few glitches, it proved to be quite valuable for the club in terms of membership data.

The Governance Committee will also be considering the introduction of a policy to make RKCC a scent-free environment, as some members with allergies are affected by strong fragrances. Please keep this in mind.

As usual, your input and suggestions are valued and welcomed by all board members, who are working on your behalf to keep RKCC a vibrant and viable club. On that note, why not consider joining one of the many committees working behind the scenes on everything from keeping hydro costs down to keeping the lounge hopping? The more volunteers we have, the better the interests of all members will be served.



RKCC Kitchen!

Joanne Gizzi, Chair

The RKCC kitchen chair, inspects and monitor the kitchen on a regular basis. RKCC have a cleaning

company wash the kitchen floors only, on a regular basis.

A list of cleaning duties for RKCC members and

volunteers using the kitchen, has been sent to the curling committee chair and posted in the kitchen. This list is a cleaning duty guideline for RKCC members and volunteers using the kitchen for events/bonspiels. All RKCC member event/bonspiel representatives should have a copy. Please contact me if you require a copy.

I am looking for a volunteer from each section who will monitor the kitchen usage and cleaning during section events/bonspiels. This person will also help with occasional kitchen cleaning (counters, stoves, ovens etc.) Please email me at Joanegizzi@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Thank you for keeping your RKCC kitchen clean. Remember no one should have to clean up after you!!

Section Reports



Day Ladies by Nancy Gray

What a busy time it was in the 2nd Draw to finally determine an overall winner. The Tuesday draw ended in a 4-way tie for 1st place. This led to 3 tie breaker games. Joan Doucet with her team of Sheila McHenry, Barbara Robertson and Cathy Hamilton played off against Marilyn Bellringer and her team of Marilyn Wilson, Trish Beckett and Lola Cole. Joan's team won this game. Ella Brisson and her team of Bonnie Bird, Wendy Curtis and Claire duBac Petkow played against Nancy Gray, Barb Tureski, Maria McGibbon (sparing for Deb Kennedy) and Bev Pitts. Nancy's team was the winner. This resulted in a final tie breaker game between Joan and Nancy; Nancy's team came through as the Tuesday draw winner. The Thursday draw winner was also decided by a tie breaker game. Judy Sly skipped her team of Sheila McHenry, Marge Craig and Francine Korczynski against Jan Ray's foursome including Philippa Fugler, Susan McConnell and Kathy Jackson. Judy led her curlers to victory. Finally, there were 2 teams ready to play for the overall draw winner. Nancy's team with Tammy Scott-Zelt playing for Nancy and Maria McGibbon, once again playing for Deb Kennedy, went on to win over Judy's team.

On January 17, 3 teams from RKCC travelled to Gananoque to participate in the annual "Chocoholic" Bonspiel. Joan Doucet skipped the team of Mary Smith,

Pat Young and Shani Doucet. Denise Mulville had Judy Sly, Tammy Scott-Zelt and Monica Kirk on her team. However, it was the foursome led by Linda O'Sullivan with Monique McKenzie, Joanne Gizzi and Debby King who won the event. This is the bonspiel to attend for those female curlers who can never get enough chocolate!

On the same day, Donna Jeffery's Flight team (Nancy Gray, Mary Dupuis and Liz Baer) played in the "Special Olympics Ontario" Bonspiel at the Garrison Curling Club. Sixteen teams participated, all for a good cause which was to support developmentally challenged curlers in our region enabling them to compete on route to the Olympics.

On January 22, Joan Doucet, Mary Smith, Maria McGibbon and Jennifer Langley from the Richmond Curling Club, travelled to Prescott for the "Robbie Burns" Bonspiel. Only 6 teams play in this event which was won this year by the ladies mostly from RKCC. This bonspiel is renowned for its food, all home made, and especially the "Scotch Eggs" (ask Joan for the recipe).

In December, the Masters team representing our club (Dianne Wylie, Joanne Miller, Joanne Manion and Karen Peters) were in Ottawa at the Rideau Curling Club competing in the Regionals. They won the B Division which allowed them to continue in competition for the Provincial title. This playdown took place in Stirling where there were a number of strong teams. Our Masters team will look forward to next year.

Finally, our section hosted the in house "Rated" Bonspiel on January 28. Ten teams entered and each played an 8 end and a 6 end game. The theme for the event was "Heart To Heart". The lounge was colourfully decorated in red and pink and the curlers were asked to wear something red for the day. We enjoyed soup and sandwiches for lunch and cake at the end when the prizes were being handed out. Ella Brisson's team of Teresa Wilson, Bonnie Arlt and Claudia Stevenson finished in 1st place. Nancy Gray's team of Philippa Fugler, Tensia Cannon and Pattyann Dicks came in 2nd. Donna Jeffery, Darlene Boucher, Liz Baer and Cathy Faubert placed 3rd. A big thank you goes out to Alice Pignal, Pat Bradshaw and all their helpers for making this bonspiel such a success.



Evening Ladies

by Heather McMillan

Congratulations to the winners of our second draw in Wednesday Club Curling. First event went to Donna Poirier's team of Pam Davison, Liz Baer and Marie Phillips, so we will see them in the play-offs in April. Runner's up were Judy Russell, Renee LeClair, Danielle Arsenault and Marg Plumadore. Our second event winning team was Denise Mulville, Mary Skeggs, Marzena Zakrzewski and Susann Gauthier, and believe it or not, the third event ended in a four-way tie! The third draw is well underway, having started on January 7th with 12 teams participating and the playoff games will be played on February 11th.

Flight curling is nearing the end of the second round robin which will run until February 12th and then the third round robin, with three divisions, will begin on February 19th. The third round robin ends March 23rd and will be followed by playoffs in A, B, and C divisions.

Our Annual 'Bring a Friend Night' will be held on Wednesday March 18th so gather up your family, friends or co-workers and bring them out to try curling. If you have any questions or you would like to help out, please contact Mirelle Ringuette.

Our next Evening Ladies In-rated bonspiel will be held on Saturday March 14th so keep this day open for a fun-filled day of curling! More details and sign-up sheets for this will be available shortly.

Good curling to all!



Mixed Curling
by David Townsend

The ladies have done it again! On January 24, Mixed held the second open Mixed Club event. Not only did the event sell out again, we had over 24 new participants, including 20 who are not regular Friday/Sunday mixed curlers. Talk about a great way to meet new people and help grow interactions between the sections. Back to the ladies. Teresa Gibson and her team of Rick Plumb, Keith Mitchell and Nicole Florent won the Charlie's Chocolate Factory's solid chocolate curling stones! And the second and third place teams, who both won Toblerone Chocolate bars (the big ones)

had 3 ladies and only one man on each team. And the curler who won the corner to corner toss? Sherry Cochrane, a graduate of this year's Novice League and a new Mixed curler! Way to go to all.

An interesting sidebar to the event. I was amazed at how many curlers said how much fun it was to just curl and meet new people. We signed up to curl and enjoy chocolate and everyone got to do just that. All were winners.

Mixed A & B are into their final round robin. C flight and Sunday are continuing their schedule of just playing because it is fun to do! We even welcome a new team to Sunday curling part way through the year. Welcome to the Thorburn squad and thanks to all other 10 teams for making them feel part of our curling family and accepting a bye between now and the end of the year.

Two upcoming dates are the closing Mixed Club event – again open to all RKCC members and closing dinner on March 28, which is also open to all. Sign up for both will be on the Social board shortly. And then on closing date, April 12, between 4:30 and 6:30, we welcome all in the Family and Friends event. This is truly a social where family and friends have an opportunity to come see why Mixed has had so much fun this year and a great opportunity for others to come on board.

I would be really remiss if I also did not thank my Mixed Committee of Mary Kelly, Kathleen Poole, Trish Beckett, who help me with the social aspect and Lorne Carmichael, who is helping with the scheduling. I am willing to stay on as Mixed Convenor for next year and would welcome others to join us to help ensure Mixed stays fun, social, welcoming and above all, good curling.

I look forward to seeing many of our 205+ Mixed members and many others out at our closing dinner on March 28th.



The Stick Leagues of RKCC
by Ian Duncan

As we quickly move towards the end of yet another year of curling, I hope that everyone has enjoyed participating. If anyone ever has suggestions for making

things better, please don't hesitate to mention it either Ken Burns or Ian Duncan.

For those of the 2-person curlers who wish to continue curling after the regular season has completed, the ice has been scheduled for 1115 and 1215 on 1, 8, and 15 April. Ken Burns will be soliciting people who would like to curl on those days to set up draws.

The closing luncheon and semi-annual general meeting will be held on 15 April.

Jim Rayner, who has been our draw-master for both versions of stick curling, is going to step back from that function at the end of this season. We owe him a debt of thanks for the work he has put into that job since the inception of the League. Very much appreciated!

RKCC hosted two OCA events this season – the Senior Men Zones competition in December, and the Bantam Boys' Zone competition on January 17th. Many thanks to Ron Cameron and Kevan Welch for their assistance.

The competitions for this season are winding down. The double rink competitions for men and women are a lot of fun, and entries can still be submitted on line. The Zones are played in Trenton on March 28/29. In "double rink" competition, the two teams play as one, by combining the scores throughout the game. If you are interested in entering this competition, please check further details at the OCA website, www.ontcurl.com, under Women's Tankard and Men's Dominion Regalia Silver Tankard.



We haven't been as generous this year as in previous years, to this point. Everything one reads or hears on this issue reiterates the fact that the need has not diminished. The basket will remain in the lounge until the end of curling. All donations are appreciated.



OCA Report
by Dianne Wylie

Betty Bush's Masters Women's team of Dianne Wylie, Joanne Miller, Joanne Manion and Karen Peters had a good run at the Provincials in Stirling January 6-10, 2015. The ladies went into the last day with a chance to advance to the Nationals, however ended with a 3-4 record, after losing Saturday's games to two of the three teams that ended up tied for first place.

Heather McMillan and her team of Pamela Prendergast, Vanessa Giguere and Laura Brown participated in the Best Western Challenge competition. The ladies advanced to the Provincial playdowns held in Picton and Stirling on January 16-18, 2015, where they had a good run, ending with a record of 1-2, with some very close games.

Upcoming Events

Calendar of Events February 2015	
Date	Event
Wed, Feb 4	KCA Spiel
Fri, Feb 6	Open Mixed Skins Spiel
Sat, Feb 7	RKCC Junior Bantam Bonspiel
Fri, Feb 13 & Sat, Feb 14	Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel
Tue, Feb 17	Pancake Dinner
Wed, Feb 25 & Thu, Feb 26	EOSSA Championships
Sat, Feb 28	Community Living Kingston Spiel
March 2015	
Sat, Mar 2	Kidney Foundation Stick Spiel
Fri, Mar 13	Day Men's In-House Spiel
Sat, Mar 14	Evening Ladies Rated Spiel St. Patrick's Day Party
Wed, Mar 18	EL Bring a Friend Night
Sat, Mar 21	Greater Kingston Continental Cup
Wed, Mar 25	Grandmothers & Great Aunts Spiel
Fri, Mar 27	Super Seniors Spiel
Sat, Mar 28	Mixed Closing Dinner



**ROYAL KINGSTON CURLING CLUB
ANNUAL BANTAM/JUNIOR BONSPIEL**

Saturday, February 7, 2015
9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.

COST \$100.00 PER TEAM TWO 8 END GAMES
ENTRIES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 26, 2015
ANY COMBINATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS WELCOME
LIGHT BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND SNACKS INCLUDED
PRIZES

All Aboard the 57th Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel on the Royal Kingston Cruise Line!

Cash Prizes Totalling \$1,460*

24 Teams Max
3 Game Points Bonspiel
OCA Mixed Curling Rules Apply

Fri. & Sat., Feb 13 & 14, 2015
Royal Kingston Curling Club

Friday Dinner by the Ship's Pool	Saturday Lunch by the Royal 8 Rock Piano Bar	Saturday at the Captain's Formal Dinner
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*Cash Prizes of \$1,460 based on 24 teams and 22% of registration fees.

Calling all RKCC Ladies!

St. Paddy's Day Bonspiel

March 14 (note date change from March 21)

Breakfast, 8 End game, Lunch,

6 End Game, Prizes for All

8:15 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Watch for Sign-up Sheet!

**GREATER KINGSTON
CONTINENTAL CUP**

Presented by



HOSTED AT RKCC SATURDAY MARCH 21ST
\$25 PER PERSON INCLUDES 2 OR 3 GAMES PLUS LUNCH
DRAW TIMES ARE 8:30, 10:00, 1:00 AND 3:00
LUNCH AT NOON

The Greater Kingston Continental Cup is based on the Continental Cup of Curling format. All games will be played at RKCC.

It will consist of two teams of 42 curlers made up of players from each of the 5 member clubs (21 men and 21 women) who will compete in various events to earn points. Events will include Ladies, Mens, Mixed Doubles, Mixed, and Skins

The team accumulating the most points by the end of the day will be declared the champions.

Register at your club.

Registrations will be limited as listed below:

- Royal Kingston – 10 Men and 10 Women
- Cataraqui – 10 Men and 10 Women
- Napanee – 7 Men and 7 Women
- Gananoque – 7 Men and 7 Women
- Garrison – 7 Men and 7 Women



Greater Kingston Curling



NAPANEE & DISTRICT CURLING CLUB

Schedule for the day

Breakfast (coffee/fruit bread) at 8:30am

Lunch (Lasagne/Caesar salad) at 12:00pm

Trivia questions/some kind of team challenge.

Dessert served during awards ceremony

Printing of this Sweep
compliments of



Thank You 2014-15 Sponsors!

"Over 60 businesses advertise at RKCC. Their financial support is a major revenue stream for the club. Please patronize those who support us and when you do, let them know that you are a member of The Royal Kingston Curling Club. This impresses upon our sponsors that their advertising dollar works."

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