



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club
Celebrating '10 Years on Days'

Volume 18, Issue 5

April/May 2017



Game on!

The action heats up in the Mixed B Division final, pitting, from left, Margie Plumadore, Dan Austin, skip Lorne Carmichael and Susan Hara against KC Bell, Steve Orme, Cyndy Jones and skip Joe Murphy. Team Murphy emerged victorious in the Saturday morning game.

Photo by
Kimberly Barker.

RKCC champions crowned

By Martha Tanner

The Royal Kingston Curling Club wrapped up its 10th season on Days Road with two days of championship games, April 21 and 22.

On Saturday afternoon, Heather McMillan's flight team of Laura Brown, Jennifer Young Cook and Katie Jeziorski successfully fended off a strong opposition skipped by Donna Jeffery, with Judy Sly sparing for Joanne Manion at third, Susan Hara at second and April Welsh sparing for lead Sheila McHenry, to take the overall women's championship.

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A Flight winners, from left, John MacMillan, skip Phil Tomsett, Joe Waller and Mario Fabbro. Missing from photo is Joe Murphy, who spared for Mario.

Photo by Martha Tanner



The Overall Women's Flight champions were the evening ladies team of, from left, skip Heather McMillan, Laura Brown, Jennifer Young Cook and Katie Jeziorski.

Photo by Martha Tanner

Champions, Continued from the front

On the men's side, Phil Tomsett's team of Joe Waller, Joe Murphy (sparing for Mario Fabbro) and John MacMillan defeated 2015's championship team of Alex Scott (who moved up from third in the absence of skip Garth Mitchell), Ken McMillan, Darren Waters and Murray Robertson.

Mario, meanwhile, with one eye on his flight team playing two sheets over, skipped his club team of Keith Forrest, Steve Orme (sparing for Sean Kerry) and Kevin Pereira to a win over Ryan Hanes, Sean Kerry, Scott Young and Bill Ball to take the coveted men's club championship trophy.

The Carrie Cole women's club championship was won by the team of Celia Russell (sparing for Donna Smith), Monica Kirk (sparing for Jennifer Cook), Tensia Cannon and Margie Plumadore. They defeated the team of Denise Mulville, Brenda Charette (for Val Malmsten), Bonnie Arlt and Sylvia Myers.

The overall mixed champions were the team of Teresa Gibson, Pierre Vanderhout (for Edward Gibson), Judy Russell (for Debby King) and Francois Lemire. Runners-up were Dave Poirier, Donna Poirier, and Andrew and Colleen Emmerson.

The junior championship was won by Joel De Groote with his brothers Nate and Luke at vice and lead respectively, and Kibo Miliima at second. Runners-up were Sam Fowlow, Josh Fowlow, Morgan Knetsch and Julianna Sargent.

Earlier that day, Andrew Van Overbeke's U4 team with Jean Vannest, Richard Robichaud, and Amy Van Overbeke defeated the team of Sylvain Garon, Shelley Sterling, Steven Bruch, and Judy Hay in the first ever U4 League final on Championship Day.

In the Day Men's A flight final, Larry Waller's team of Greg Ruse, Grant Paterson, Roy Vasey (fifth Wayne Smith) was victorious over Garth Mitchell's team of Phil Tomsett (Dave Bracken sparing), Ken McMillan and Richard Dickson.

Howard Herron's team of Ernie Carter (sparing for Lorne Loyd), Bill Racz and Ross Thompson won the 4-Person Stick League final over Bob Mitchell, Gwen Mitchell, Eden Jefferies and Ian Duncan. In the two-Person Stick League final, Jim Rayner and Claire duBac Rayner defeated Diane Labrie and Claire Dominik. Pierre Vanderhout was the winner of the Hot Shots competition.

For more photos, please visit the RKCC website.

President shares exciting news at Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting, held April 23 at the club, President John Ryce looked back on his busy first year at the head of the board table and forward to some promising changes for next season. Elected in April, John enjoyed a quiet summer and was just a couple of weeks away from starting the new curling season in September when former club manager Graham Weatherby showed up at his office with his letter of resignation.

“We were very fortunate to have Steve Hulton step up to the plate and act as our interim GM,” noted John at the meeting. “This took some pressure off me and the Personnel Committee, and gave us some time to revise the job description and look for the ideal candidate to replace Graham on a full-time basis.

“I also need to thank the staff who all pitched in to help get the season up and running in the middle of a change in the GM’s position.”

The job vacancy attracted over 20 applicants, some from as far away as British Columbia and several with curling club management experience. The Personnel Committee narrowed the list to seven, then to two.

“This process took a lot of time and energy,” recalled John, “but at the end of the day we ended up with the best candidate, Steve Hulton.”

In response to questions about why the curling club needs a full-time manager, John explained that, during the curling season, the manager often works extra hours and must take his vacation in the summer months. The manager is also needed in the summer to look after the day-to-day business and to deal with hall rentals, etc. However, the new manager’s contract stipulates that he will work on an “as needed” basis during the summer months. “He will be available whenever we need him, and the Board is confident that this new arrangement will work to everyone’s advantage.

“We are still committed to using our club on a 12-month basis and, to that point, I would like to share some exciting news,” John continued. “We are in negotiations with the Kingston Sport and Social Club to build six beach volleyball courts in the northeast corner of our property and this would become their permanent home. Their season starts when ours ends, and it ends right before curling starts. It is a perfect marriage. They have 2,750 members and some of them would become curlers. The added revenue would help secure the financial future of this club.”

While the negotiations are still in the early stages, John said that he is confident that some kind of partnership will be worked out. This partnership may also involve the introduction of pickle ball on the slab when the ice is out in the summer, although this is not part of the current negotiations.

To aid in the process and ensure adequate space for the courts and parking, the fence on the north side of the club will be moved 10 metres to enclose the land purchased from Correctional Service Canada. John also praised Ruthie Cummings for her great food service, as well as all of the volunteers who make this club run. “Keep up the good work and thank you for all that you do.”

In closing, he reminded everyone that the 200th anniversary of RKCC is coming up in 2020 and that a 200th Anniversary Committee has been struck with Murray Cotton as chair.

“Look for big things to happen in 2020 and don’t be afraid to play a bigger role by helping this committee in preparation for this historic milestone.”

New GM 'thrilled' to help club move forward

By Steve Hulton, General Manager

2016 – 2017 started in a hurry for me and I was thrilled to be offered the opportunity to help the club move on after Graham's departure. I was fortunate to have been at the club for six years already, so I was aware of how the members expected the club to operate and now it was my job to help make some of those things happen.

What I really learned in a hurry is the enormity of the amount of time and effort the Board, the various committee members and especially the volunteers put into making this place operate, and I was amazed at how few real problems had to be resolved. All of these people freely give their time to make this club a success and they deserve more credit than they ever get.

Staff at the club are a pleasure to work with and took it upon themselves to make sure that things got done, without being asked or told.

There will undoubtedly be changes made to a lot of things here, from ice usage off-season club use, significant changes to how we use the club manager software, changes at the bar (very reasonable price increases), and pro shop sales. I encourage everyone to have a say in these matters and any comments or suggestions will be listened to carefully.

We have introduced several local microbrewery brands of draft and canned beer this season and we are always looking for feedback. If we don't have something, please ask for it. It's our way of knowing what you like and want served here.

I think everyone has noticed the change in food service that has taken place over the past few months, both at lunch and dinner times. In my opinion, it has been quite a success, but I must thank Julie for years of diligently keeping our lunchtime curlers fed and happy. I will say that she is happy with the change as well. Please keep in mind that members should be in control of what they as a group want to see on the menu, so please pass along any comments to me.

Lastly, I want to thank the Personnel Committee, the complete Board and the general membership for accepting me and giving me the opportunity to help this club function well for the next three years.



Jan Ray, left, accepts her Certificate of Recognition from Joanne Miller, Member at Large and chair of the Wall of Fame Nominating Committee.

Photo by Martha Tanner

Wall of Fame Inductees named

Three new faces will be added to the Wall of Fame in the fall. Phil Tomsett, Linda Lott and the late Betty Bush have all been approved by the Board of Directors, after being unanimously proposed by the Wall of Fame Nominating Committee, chaired by Joanne Miller, and including Bill Cannon, Ella Brisson, Erwin Batalla, Rene Marchen, and Tom Mercer.

Two other candidates, Reg Gore and Jan Ray, were recognized at their respective closing dinners for their outstanding contributions to the club.

In her report for the Annual General Meeting, Joanne thanked her committee for their work in reviewing each of the nomination forms.



Heather Sinclair, left, accepts her certificate of Life Membership from April Welsh.



Phil Tomsett, left, presents the Life Membership certificate to Joe Waller.

Life Members recognized

Two more members have reached the 30-year mark at RKCC, making them eligible for the honorary title of Life Members. Heather Sinclair and Joe Waller each received their certificates at their respective year-end dinners. Both joined the club in 1987.



Come celebrate Betty's 90th birthday!

Betty Bryant, long-time RKCC Day Ladies curler, is celebrating her 90th birthday this year!

The family is hosting a drop-in at the club on Saturday, 27 May between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and invite one and all for some cake, good wishes, and more than a few curling stories.

PS: If you have a photo to share, bring it along; the family is compiling a keepsake album for Betty.

Membership: curlers best recruitment tool

By Linda Lott, Membership Committee Chair

The 2016/2017 Membership Committee consisted of Michael Flowers, Michael Cook, Steve Orme, Trish Beckett, Leslie Higginson and chair, Linda Lott.

The committee, alongside the Skills Development group, hosted the opening Learn to Curl clinics. We took the lead on Kingston Gets Active on September 25, assisted the Social Committee with the opening Swing 'n Sweep, organized and manned the FebFest curling event at Market Square, hosted a well-attended Family Day Open House on February 19 and, finally, participated in the Chamber of Commerce Lifestyle 50 Showcase at St. Lawrence College on April 29.

The committee also sent a survey to all non-returning members about their decision with regard to the 2016/2017 season. Twenty-two per cent of respondents indicated that scheduling conflicts make it difficult to make games, and 45 per cent indicated that they would consider returning if there were more membership options. The committee will use the data for future planning and welcomes input from all of the membership on initiatives that might attract – and keep – our members.

Registration for the 2016/2017 season showed a downswing in all sections of the club. The final number of members was 580, down from 610 last year. Curling clubs across the province are experiencing lower membership numbers, a trend that the Membership Committee would like to reverse. Finding the right recruitment tool to maximize the number of potential curlers is difficult and costs money — the cheapest and most effective recruitment tool that we have is you, the curlers. Please take the time this summer to encourage your golf buddies, soccer friends, cottage neighbours, children and extended family to explore the sport of curling in the fall.

The end of the 2016/2017 season also marks the end of my chairmanship of the Membership Committee, and I would like to thank the members of the committee both past and present for their hard work on your behalf. Michael Cook has agreed to assume the Chair position, and I am confident that he will do an excellent job.

Busy year for RKCC bonspiels

By April Welsh, Bonspiel Convenor

RKCC had a great year on the bonspiel front. Members continue to support the in-house spiels and our invitational spiels continue to attract out-of-club entries. The Empire Life spiel was full with 24 teams, The Whig was back up to 60 and the Grandmothers and Great Aunts had 22 teams. The Limestone, Fisherman's, and the Super Seniors were all full. Well done!!

I would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to all the convenors and their committees!

Invitational spiels:

Limestone (Sr. Men's) - David Leeson

Evening Ladies – Deb Wilkin

The Whig Standard – Phil Tomsett and Roy Vasey

Empire Life Mixed – Kimberly Barker

Grandmothers and Great Aunts – Alice Pignal, Kathy Jackson, April Welsh

Super Seniors – Steve Quinn

Famous Fisherman's – Bob Moore, Grant Paterson

In-House:

Swing & Sweep – Kathleen Poole

Betty Bush Memorial – Linda Lott & Joanne Miller

Day Men's In-House (x2) – John Pratt, David Leeson and their many helpers

Mixed Club (Christmas, St. Paddy's) – Kathleen Poole, Lorne Carmichael

Stick Mini-Spiel – Jim Rose, Ken Burns

Day Ladies' Christmas – Brenda Charette & Pat Thompson

Day Ladies' Rated – Brenda Charette & Pat Thompson

Open Mixed Skins – Brian Hetherington, Ken Brant, John Pratt

Bonspiels can't be run without the scores of volunteers who invest their time and energy. Again, many thanks for a successful year!



Members of the U4 League compete for the first time on Championship Weekend. From left: Amy Van Overbeke, Shelley Sterling, Andrew Van Overbeke, Judy Hay, Steven Bruch, Sylvain Garon, Jean Vannest, and Richard Robichaud. Team Van Overbeke was the winner.

Photo by Kimberly Barker

Join the team! Skills Development Committee now recruiting

By Denis Faubert, Chair Skills Development Committee

The Adult Novice Program running from October 2 to December 11 had another successful year, with 11 registrants this season. This program was coordinated by Martha Tanner, with Denis Faubert as lead instructor aided by Kathleen Poole, Steve Lloyd and Martha Tanner. There has been some discussion regarding the optimal evening to hold this program, however, no decisions have been made for next year pending the proposal from the task force on ice usage.

The Thursday Daytime Learn to Curl eight-week program, headed by Tom Bryant and supported by John Koronyj and Mike Charette, had another good turnout with 15 participants this year.

The Sunday Evening Learn to Curl sessions overseen by Kimberly Barker with Judy Russell and John McMillan providing on-ice instruction for both club curlers and members of the public from 7-9 pm was very much appreciated by those who attended.

The U4 (Novice League) boasted 19 participants in its inaugural year, with four teams having a wonderful time on the ice Wednesday evenings.

With regards to succession planning there are four vacancies next year, namely the Member Clinic Coordinator, U4 Novice League Coordinator, Adult Novice Program Lead Instructor, and Chair of the Curling Skills Development Committee. Kimberly Barker will remain as Sunday Evening Learn to Curl Coordinator. I would urge members to consider becoming a part of this team. Many thanks to all of the above for their hard work over the year.

The 'buzz' from the Curling Committee

By David Townsend
Curling Committee Chair

For all intents and purposes, this past curling season has been similar to those gone before us. Games were played, won and lost. New rivalries were created and many new friends were met and made. And most of us had a fun year, which is what this game of ours is meant to be.

From an organizational point of view, this year has shown several new challenges and created several new opportunities. Our committee has wrestled with the concepts that curling should be an eight-end game and that we need to focus on getting the games played completely. It would be wonderful to have an inordinate amount of time to play at one's leisure, but that is not the case.

We have wrestled with the buzzer rule, a rule most of us do not like, especially as we head into the sixth end knowing we are running out of time! Yet, when I look at my own teams in men's and mixed, I can easily see where we wasted time, therefore becoming our own worst enemy. There are many things all teams can do to ensure the game is played within timeframes allotted and consistency from one league to the next when many of us (more than 60 per cent) play in more than one league is one of those benchmarks. On behalf of all curlers, I would welcome skips to spend time with their teams reviewing the guidelines for quicker play. With quicker play, there will always be time for discussions about those critical shots. In 2017/18, the Curling Committee will be asked to standardize playing times for all leagues to help develop consistency across all things curling.

Our committee has also had to look at a rule for protests, which has been adopted for all leagues. We have talked about the need to promote bonspiels and opportunities for competitive curling. Many of us would benefit from seeing other clubs and competitions. To help us do that, the schedule next year will include more fixed times for practice and strategy sessions.

We have expanded the Championship day into three draws that will allow champions from all leagues and divisions to have a meaningful game to determine final winners and runners-up.

Curling Committee meetings will continue to be scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month, starting at 5:30 p.m. These meetings are open to all members of RKCC and we welcome your participation to help us all organize a curling schedule for more than 500 active curlers.

I hope everyone has a great summer and I look forward to seeing everyone on the ice in the fall.



From left, Kibo Mulima, Moira Smith, Kaidynce McQueen and Satish Patel.

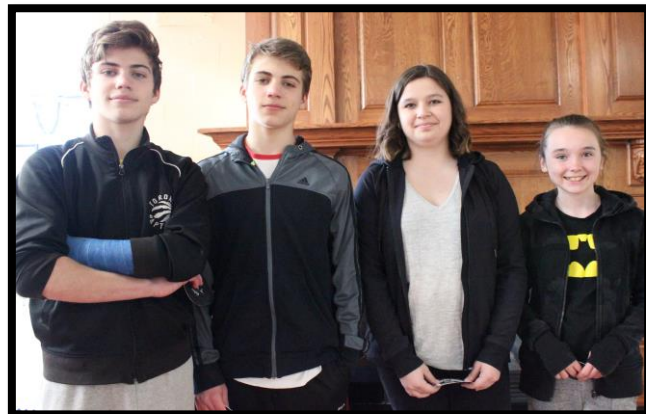
Junior Achievement

Congratulations . . . to RKCC junior curlers Kibo Mulima, Kaidynce McQueen and Satish Patel and their teammate Moira Smith who represented Module Vanier at the New Holland Elementary School Curling Championship in March, finishing second in their division.

. . . And to Trevor Kirby and his junior rink of Nicholas Robinson, Connor Lund and Scott McMulkin, who were nominated for the Kiwanis Club's amateur athlete of the year award.



Winners of the Junior A Final, Team De Groote 1, skipped by Joel De Groote, from left, with Nate De Groote (sparing for Brock Wylie), Kibo Mulima (sparing for William Vandenberg) and Luke De Groote.



Team Fowlow, skipped by Sam Fowlow, with Josh Fowlow, Julianna Sargent and Morgan Knetsch.

Photos by Martha Tanner

Junior Program continues to grow

By Janet Fowlow

Our season is always hectic to start off. The kids are excited and our enrolment was up from last year, with over 40 curlers, both new and returning members.

One of the highlights for the kids this year was a morning with John Epping. We invited curlers from the high school league, Garrison and Cataraqui Curling Clubs in good faith that they would share with us in if the opportunity were to come their way as well. John spent time on every sheet and talked with each curler to help improve some aspect of their game. He donated one of his shirts from the 2016 Canada Cup, which we raffled off and made \$1,050 for the Juniors to bring in another high-end curler for next season. Thank you to Kimberly Barker for her assistance in making this project a success.

Our Junior program extended invitations to all the high school students this year to join us on Sundays for pick-up style games. The curlers appreciated the opportunity to play. They are eager to learn more about the game in a game format, and to develop their own high school teams.

Our Little Rock curlers developed their skills with Dale Marecak and Kimberly Barker. This group, made up of 7- to 9-year-old curlers, generally receives instructions and slowly gets put in a game scenario.

Christy Gilmour worked with the five- to seven-year-olds on the half sheet. Each curler achieved their Little Rock Badge.

I was the convenor for the Greater Kingston Curling Junior League, as this year was Royal Kingston's turn to convene. There were five teams, two from RKCC. There is a strong feeling to keep this league developmental, where a great deal of our curlers would age out. I am hoping to have a team for this league next year.

I would like to thank all our on-ice volunteers: Kimberly Barker, Dale Marecak, Judy Russell, Mary Fay, Christy Gilmour, Jeremy Heil. The volunteers are very valuable and all are great with the kids. Judy Russell will be stepping back from assisting on ice. She will be missed.

This year for myself was very hectic and challenging. Although I do find working with the kids and parents very rewarding, I will be stepping down as Junior Curling Chair. This is a very hard decision because I care so much, but I must also take care of myself and I choose to remain a part of this club as a member and curler. I also want to focus on creating a competitive team for my boys, which is important to our family.

C



Pennie Robert, left, and Kathleen Poole share a laugh as they prepare for Championship Night in 2015.

File photo

Social Committee finds the ‘fun’ in fundraising

By Kathleen Poole, Social Committee Chair

The Social Committee had another busy year, starting with supporting the June 22 brainstorming night for RKCC’s 10th anniversary on Days Road and the upcoming 200th anniversary. The resulting theme for the 10th anniversary was “10 Years on Days”.

On October 1 we hosted the Swing ‘n Sweep, held at the Landings for golf and RKCC for curling, followed by a Fish Fry. We plan to host this event again in the fall and remind everyone to encourage people from the community as well to this bonspiel, in hopes they will love the game of curling.

On December 3 we raised \$822 at our third annual Christmas Craft and Tea/Dessert Sale through the rental of tables to the crafters, selling coffee, tea and desserts, and then selling plates of desserts for the bake sale. We have had a lot of requests to host this event again.

Our annual St. Paddy’s Day Dance on Saturday, March 18 was a great success again! We sold ALL 150 tickets and wish we had more room to sell more, for there was a demand! After cost, we made about \$1,300 and have decided to re-book Steve Cheeseman and the Heaters for Saturday, March 17, 2018 and consider a fall dance event as well.

Championship Weekend was a new format, held April 21 and 22 and organized by the Social Committee. We arranged for RKCC member Kevin Tanner to pipe the teams onto the ice for all three game times, and provided breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and hosted a catered dinner that evening. A Hot Shots competition was organized by committee member Janet Fowlow. Following the awards presentations, the Spencer Evans Band provided music for dancing and entertainment. The dinner and dance tickets were moderately priced at just \$20 for a fabulous evening.

New this year, the Social Committee will be taking the annual Golf Tournament under its umbrella. The golf tournament is being held on June 15, with golf at St. Lawrence and a steak and salmon dinner at RKCC. Co-convenors are Greg Ruse and Dave Fraser.

The mandate of the Social Committee is to plan events at the club for members and the community to enjoy. We are always looking for members to join our committee, so we would represent each of the different leagues. If you are interested in joining the fun, please contact one of us: Trish Beckett, Sandy Edwards, Janet Fowlow, Linda Lott, Pennie Robert or myself.

I would like to thank the committee members and as well as the many others who volunteered to help us at our very successful events this past year.

Marketing: Please support our sponsors

By Dave Fraser, Marketing Committee Chair

The Marketing Committee is made up of Tom Bryant, Roger Taylor, Bruce Jeffery, Linda Lott, Garry Dupuis and Dave Fraser.

The main function of our committee is to raise revenue by selling advertising on the wall, ice, clock and bar. This year we raised about \$23,000 through sponsorship, which helps with the operation of the club.

We are very fortunate to have a great group of sponsors and we work hard to give them value for their money. Having said that, we were short one ice sponsor, and have room for about 10 to 12 more wall sponsors.

We are always trying to find new sponsors. If anyone wants to become a sponsor or knows of anyone who we could approach, please contact me or any member of our committee.

One thing all members need to do is know and support our sponsors whenever possible, because without them we would need to find other ways to raise revenue to help the club.

Operations work ongoing

The Operations Committee has been steadily working to improve the facility. In addition to work already outlined in *The Sweep*, including the lighting retrofit project, construction of ice scraper cooler pad, improved drainage and relocation of scoreboards, the Committee plans to:

- modify entrance doors at three locations to cut down on drafts and save on heating.
- Paint roof piping and seal roof penetrations.
- Relocate fence on east & north boundaries to reflect revised property lines.

Eaton's 1970's Catalogue

Do you know who provided this catalogue for the Grandmothers' and Great Aunts' Spiel?
If so, please contact April at bcwood@kingston.net.

Mixed: A good year for curling and socializing!

By Lorne Carmichael
Mixed Curling Convenor

Mixed Curling at RKCC meets on Friday and Sunday evenings throughout the season. This year we had 21 teams in the competitive Friday division, six more in the recreational Friday division, and 13 in the Sunday recreational division. The Friday competitive division ended with playoffs in A, B, and C divisions, with the A and B finals occurring on Championship Day.

The Competitive winners were the Fowlow team in C division, the Murphy team in B division and the Gibson team in A division. In the Friday recreational division, the Tessier team won and it was the Kirby team that won in the Sunday recreational league.

The biggest change this year was due to the smaller number of teams wanting to play on Friday. We were able to schedule the draws so that teams could play at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. only, eliminating the need for 9:15 p.m. games. This change, needless to say, was popular. However, it does reflect declining numbers in Friday mixed, and the goal for next year is to be in a situation where 9:15 p.m. games will again be required.

Interest in Sunday curling remains strong.

Bonspiels

The Empire Life bonspiel was held in February and was fully enrolled with 24 teams. There were also two in-house club curling mixed bonspiels that proved to be lots of fun, a Christmas dinner and a New Year's Eve dance. All in all, a good year for curling and socializing!

Mixed Curling Committee

I'd like to thank Mary Kelly, KC Bell, Richard Robichaud, Dale Marecek, Dave Lollar, Kathleen Poole, Trish Beckett and Susan Hara for all their work this past year.

Looking ahead . . .

I am continuing in the job for next year, but someone new will be needed in 2018/19. If anyone want to come up and talk to me about taking over in 2018/19, I'll be shocked and amazed . . .



Jan Ray, above right, provides instruction on the stick delivery during a clinic.

File photos

“The Stick League is always looking to welcome any and all those who curl with a stick from whatever section. It provides good practice and experience to polish your stick skills. There is always opportunity for either the two-person or four-person version. The more the merrier! We’re especially interested for people to add to the four-person roster.”

—Ian Duncan



Barbara Robertson delivers a rock during the 2013 Back in the Hack spiel.

Stick League good practice, good fun

By Ian Duncan

2016/2017 was another successful season, with about 70 curlers participating as team members or spares. With 24 two-person teams, everyone got to curl once with all the other teams.

Unfortunately, we had only six four-person teams as compared to eight last year. However, there are indications that there are more people considering forming four-person teams for next season. Even so, everyone had an enjoyable time.

There is room in our schedule for more curlers. Anyone who curls with a stick in any other section is always welcome in the Stick League. It’s a good place to hone your skills.

Day Men's League enjoys another successful season

By Dave Leeson and John Pratt, Co-Chairs, RKCC Day Men's Curling

The 2017 curling season has gone well. Continuing in their respective supporting roles from last year are vice-chair, Ken Burns, and chief schedule-maker, Roger Chown. Everything is running smoothly with respect to Monday lunches and the schedule, thanks to these gentlemen.

Senior Day Men's Flight went through the year with 30 teams, the same as last year. Ken Burns did a great job filling up the "volunteers" for Monday lunches. The profit from Monday lunches was \$2,162, which was handed over to the club. On the first day of play-offs, Conservatory Pond Retirement Residence provided, at no charge, a wonderful lunch to all Senior Flight men. As a result, Day Men's was well under budget for the year.

By far the biggest issue raised by senior men was having to live with the "90 minutes after the game start" buzzer, despite the Monday daytime slots being 135 minutes long. There were numerous requests to change to a 95-minute buzzer rule, which still allows 10 more minutes of ice maintenance than with a 120-minute game time slot.

The in-house bonspiels went well. With a little arm-twisting, they are generally close to full and this year was no different. As with last year, we also ran an in-house Mixed Bonspiel, which went well.

The Limestone Senior Men's Bonspiel, held in October, was very successful and posted a profit to the club of over \$1,700.

Day Ladies end season on an 'upbeat' note

By Donna Jeffery

The Day Ladies curling season for 2016-17 has been an interesting one, but for the most part very positive and successful. We have an enthusiastic group of ladies who love to curl and also are very willing to help out when needed. All our bonspiels, both in-house and open, were well organized and brought revenue into our club. We also tried some new fun events that will be expanded on next season. Thank you so much to all who participated and the hard-working volunteers who made it happen.

On April 5 the Day Ladies held their Spring General Meeting. It was decided that a Task Force would be set up to review the Day Ladies Club Curling, Playoff and Playdown Rules and recommend changes, if necessary, that the membership would vote on in the fall.

Our Day Ladies Club Championship Team was skipped by Denise Mulville with Val Malmsten, Bonnie Arlt and Sylvia Myers. On April 22 Brenda Charette spared for Val and the team took on the Evening Ladies Club Championship Team skipped by Celia Russell (for Donna Smith) with Monica Kirk (for Jen Cook), Tensia Cannon and Margie Plumadore. Our Day Ladies Flight Team Champion was the team of Donna Jeffery, Joanne Manion, Susan Hara and Sheila McHenry. When the final game of the year was played two spares were needed. Judy Sly spared for Joanne and April Welsh played for Sheila. This team took on the Evening Ladies Flight Champions skipped by Heather McMillan with teammates Laura Brown, Jennifer Young Cook and Katie Jeziorski. Unfortunately, both Day Ladies teams were defeated by the Evening Ladies. Not to worry though, the Day Ladies will be ready for the challenge next season.

The Championship Weekend format was well received. The final for the Day Ladies B Division was played on Saturday morning and an enthusiastic gallery of fans watched the action. The team of Kathy Brown, Mary Skeggs, Joanne Gizzi (for Lil Rynbend) and Sharon Windsor (for Liz Baer) defeated Joanne Miller, Nancy Roantree, Teresa Wilson (for Karen Peters) and Deb Wilkin (for Bonnie Arlt). Congratulations to all who made it into the final weekend and high five to the victors.

The dinner and dance that was organized to complete the festivities was a great success and an "upbeat" finish to our curling season. Have a wonderful summer, ladies.

EL Executive has vacancies

By Deb Wilkin

The evening ladies flight league had 15 teams this year, down from 19 teams last year and we are hopeful we can attract more teams for next season. We completed four round robins based on an A Division and a B Division. Next season we will start instead with a full round robin, after which teams will be placed in two or three divisions for the remainder of the season.

The club league started the season with 12 teams and was down to 10 in the last draw. Again, we're hopeful we can attract more individuals to register for next season, as 10 teams is lower than we would like. I'm hopeful our "Bring a Friend" night on March 15, which introduced 15 new curlers to the sport, will encourage a few more to sign up in the fall.

The three convenors this year were Liz Baer and Monica Kirk for club curling and Denise Mulville for our flight league.

We had a busy and season. Our November bonspiel generated a profit of \$250 and our dinners were a huge success. We introduced new bylaws at our AGM in April to clearly define each position on the executive.

The following positions are still vacant: chair, vice chair, and two social convenors.

Evening Men recruiting players and volunteers

By Mario Fabbro

The Evening Men's section had another successful season. The flight section comprised 38 teams – down one from last year and four short of a full complement. Recruitment efforts will take place between now and the beginning of next season to return to our standard of 42 teams. The Evening Men's sections will try and increase the number of volunteers on the men's committee to more equitably share the work load – new volunteers have already been found to assume the club curling organizing and scheduling. As always, the committee in its ongoing role will address the member concerns around the rules of flight curling, and a general skips' meeting will be held at the beginning of the season to review the rules on playoff seeding.

The Club curling section had a very good year. This section consisted, on average, of 12 teams playing on Monday and 14 – 16 teams on Thursday nights. Both Mondays and Thursdays saw the men's and women's teams sharing the ice this year. The women were very accommodating on their use of Thursday ice time, which enabled the men to avoid 9:15 games almost all season.

Royal Kingston active member of OCA

By Ron Cameron, RKCC OCA Men's Representative

This has been another successful year for Ontario Curling Association (OCA) activities at RKCC. On the ice, RKCC has been represented by competitors in Masters and Senior competitions, the Travelers Club Championship and U18 and U21 events.

We are all now aware of the issues regarding sweeping equipment and methods and have had a year to adjust. There has been minimal impact on our members to this point, but the OCA has continued to provide guidance to member clubs and RKCC has adopted a new brush head policy as a result. Finally, I want to report that the OCA has announced a substantial increase in fees for the 2017/18 season. This is the first increase in 18 years, but jumps from \$13.56/member to \$19.95/member, which now includes a Curling Canada levy of \$2/member. The rationale for these changes will be discussed at our Spring Zone 4 meeting and the results of that discussion will be reported to the Curling Committee at its next meeting and at the semi-annual general meeting in the fall.

(Submitted on behalf of RKCC OCA ladies' rep Linda O'Sullivan and juniors' rep Kevan Welch.)

84th Whig ‘smoothest’ in years

By Phil Tomsett and Roy Vasey , Bonspiel Co-Chairs

The 84th annual Whig Standard Men’s Bonspiel was held January 26 - 28, 2017 with most games at the Royal Kingston Curling Club. It was necessary to also have games at both the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club and the Garrison Golf and Curling Club. Again the bonspiel started earlier on Thursday afternoon to ensure more games at the host club and avoid teams having to play three games on Friday and three games on Saturday.

This year, there were 60 teams competing for \$6,000 in prizes which was six more teams than the previous year. We had numerous teams playing in their first Whig, which was great to see. We made further changes to the draw which gave more time to prepare the ice and we managed to finish the bonspiel on time.

In the **main event final** Jonathan Beuk from Cataraqui defeated Noel Herron from Cataraqui in an exciting extra-end last-shot final. This was Beuk’s third title in the last five years. The semi-finalists in the main event were the defending champion Joe Waller from RKCC and Terry Perkins from Carleton Heights. Other event winners were: **2nd event** Gord Abson from RKCC over Decebal Michaud from Cataraqui; **3rd event** Matt Hone from Brockville over Tim Aldridge from RKCC; **4th event** Matt Mills from Cataraqui over Kevin Pickell from City View; **5th event** Todd Johnson from RKCC over Brian Dowling from RKCC; **6th event** Riley Sigman from Brockville over Fred Ivimey from Cataraqui.

Special thanks to our sponsors: *The Whig-Standard* newspaper, Bob the Butcher and Amey’s Taxi. To have a successful large bonspiel requires the efforts of many volunteers and once again I was so impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of many RKCC members. I must signal out the various committee heads: Dave Kerr (Scoring), Linda Lott (Thursday night dinner), John Berry (Friday lunch), Murray Cotton (Friday dinner), Wayne Gilmour (Saturday breakfast), Garry Dupuis (Saturday Lunch) and Anthony Hale (Saturday dinner). Special thanks to Gord Abson and Dave Kerr for their help with the complex draw. There was excellent work by Steve Hulton, Rod Leeder and his ice makers and Gerry Buist and his bartenders. Again the bar was very busy this year and the food was exceptional. We feel that this Whig ran the smoothest in many years.

Team Heil wins Bantam Hot Shots

The Bantam curlers held their annual Hot Shots competition on March 19, 2017. The competition was won by Finn Heil, with William Vandenburg, Nils Lintner and Kaidynce McQueen in a three-way tie for second place.



Photo and text by Kimberly Barker

Team Blue Showers Team Red in Continental Cup

It was an exciting day on March 4 in the bid for the Continental Cup at RKCC. Team Red dominated the first three events of the 2017 Challenge, but the final skins game gave an advantage to Team Blue for the overall top score and winners of the 2017 Continental Cup Challenge within the Greater Kingston Curling Association.

Little Rocks benefit from great coaching this season

By Kimberly C.A. Barker

The story of curling history has always been small town. Yet here at RKCC, our Little Rocks have made this sport very metropolitan. The one-day clinic with John Epping and the weekly visits with World Junior Curling Champion Mary Fay, found the two groups of Junior and Little Rocks coming together to enjoy top athletic people to help involve them as they play each and every game. The end of the season came together again for the Little Rocks and the Junior curlers at the same table of tacos to honour their leaders, supporters and teammates as they moved into Championship playoffs on April 22.

Their time in training is a balance of friends and relatives and the job of the coaches at RKCC is to move these people forward in the right direction to be ready for tournaments with multiple groups of teams. This year Kevan Welch, Christy Gilmour, Janet Fowlow and Kimberly Barker helped these curlers to develop strategies based on their level of competition both mentally and physically. Preparing these teams for tournaments means having to participate in a boot camp style of program where coaches scout for teams willing to curl in tournaments. This means the coaches must develop each curler individually and then again with direction from the OCA to ensure the curlers understand the strategies involved in an eight-end game, even when the rocks weighed as much as the curlers themselves.

This year the Learn to Curl trophy was extended into the last game of the season for those curlers who wanted to focus on the tournament of people as they play the game. Congratulations go to Team A: Skip Abigail VanderPlas, Andrew DaCosta, Jaydon Irish and Kaleigh Scott (missing). Team B winners were Skip Valarie Cote, Alex Splinter, Noah Beddard, and Leah DaCosta. Also congratulations to Abigail VanderPlas for her achievement in obtaining the OCA level Red badge and her promotion to the Junior League next year. Good Luck and Good Curling!

Sunday Learn to Curl presents Town Cryer Trophy!

By Kimberly C.A. Barker

Our final Sunday of Learn to curl hosted an outdoor community recreational group brought in by Chrystal Wilson to compete for our newly renovated Town Cryer Trophy. (The spelling is incorrect so as not to be confused with the title of the City of Kingston's Town Crier.) The trophy was designed by Kimberly Barker and was dedicated to Denis Faubert for leadership in the Learn to Curl forum at Royal Kingston Curling Club. On April 9, our team of instructors gave 28 people from this group an hour of instruction followed by a two-end format of competition-style curling between the red rocks – Team Canada – and blue rocks – Team RKCC. Team Canada, as shown here, were this year's winners of the trophy and thus have been given full bragging rights until curling season begins again in the fall.

We at Sunday Learn to Curl would like to thank our manager, Steve Hulton, as well as acknowledge the dedicated assistance of all instructors who have helped build and maintain our curling community here in Kingston. Most prominent for our Sunday curling on-ice instruction were the following: Judy Russell, Nick Karsin, John MacMillan, Tensia Cannon, Dwight Farrell, Kathleen Poole, Denis Faubert, Martha Tanner, Michael Cook, Kevan Welch, Peter Coughlin, and Tammy Scott-Zelt.

I wish everyone a Happy 150th Year as Royal Kingston completes its 10-year celebration at 130 Days Road.