



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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March 2018

President recalls personal highlights

By John Ryce, RKCC President

It is hard to believe that another curling season is coming to an end and for me it seems that the last two years as your President have come and gone in the blink of an eye.

There is no question that I have had many items to deal with as President and I am looking forward to a little quiet time as my term ends. Here are a few of the highlights:

If you recall, one of my first issues was the resignation of manager Graham Weatherby and then the long process of replacing him. Thanks to Mike Schneider and Edward Gibson for all of your help.

Then there was Rod's illness which started in the fall of 2016. I really need to say how proud I am to be associated with RKCC and to see how everyone has rallied around Rod. Unfortunately, I was away on vacation, but I heard that his fundraiser was a huge success, so thank you to all those involved. Also, thanks to the staff who have all chipped in to keep our ice in good playing condition and did whatever else was required in Rod's absence. Last, but not least, is a big thank you to the Board who have supported Rod in a big way both emotionally and financially in his time of need, as the membership would expect for such a dedicated 42-year employee.

It was a true honour for me when I was the MC for the three inductees into our "Wall of Fame." This doesn't happen very often and to be part of it was extra special.

The Curling Committee has implemented some scheduling changes and new leagues in an effort to be fair and equitable and at the same time try to increase our membership. Change isn't always easy but sometimes necessary.

We also dealt with the implementation of "Ruthie's Kitchen", which in my opinion has been a huge success and has given our members another reason to stay for an extra drink and a bite to eat after the game. It is no secret that I occasionally bring my wife to the club for good food and a cheap date night. Pickleball, anyone? Another new idea that seems to be popular during the summer at our club.

We are in the process of finalizing the details to build beach volleyball courts on our property. This investment will bring additional, much-needed revenue and will help us promote our club as a year-round facility.

We have our 200th anniversary coming up in 2020 and a committee was formed to make sure that we are organized for this historic milestone. One of the ideas that came from this committee was to have the Brier in Kingston in 2020. This idea has now taken off and the entire city has embraced it. Please support it with a \$50 seat pledge.

Don't forget that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 15 at 1 p.m. It is important that we have good attendance to hear all of the various reports and so that we receive any feedback from our members. We also must have quorum to approve our 2016/17 financial statements.

Continued success for the rest of the season and congratulations and best of luck during Championship Week.

A tribute to our 'fearless' Leader



By Martha Tanner

Over 200 people gathered at the club on February 17 in a show of support for a much-loved friend, family member and respected ice maker.

An Evening of Appreciation for Rod Leeder was organized by friends and RKCC members Michael Braun and Wayne Smith and by Rod's brother Glen Leeder. The evening was not only intended as a show of support for Rod, as he battles melanoma, but as a fundraiser for Rod and his wife, Shelley Bearss, who has stepped away from her job in the past few months in order to care for Rod.

In addition to many unsolicited cash donations, friends, family and RKCC members donated items for a silent auction. Wayne Smith and the other members of his country band, The Porch Pilots, generously donated their considerable talents to the event, making for a celebratory atmosphere.

Throughout the evening, lineups formed as well-wishers waited to talk to Rod, give him a hug or a handshake and express their wishes for his well-being.

Rod's wife Shelley thanked everyone for contributing to the evening and reserved special thanks for the RKCC. "Thank you to the Royal Kingston Curling Club – you have been outstanding, from the board to the staff and all the members. Your love and support for Rod has been outstanding. And Rod's family – what a gift! Everybody has been so helpful and so supportive."

Added Rod's brother, Glen, "Our family is overcome with joy and feelings of support that the community has given us. Rod couldn't have had a better place to work for 42 years. The club has been tremendous. We really want to thank you all, thank you from the bottom of my heart."

A highlight of the evening was when Glen held up a hockey stick with a puck embedded in the blade and proclaimed it the only puck that Rod had ever stopped as a goalie. Promising that Rod would sign it for the highest bidder, he started the bidding.

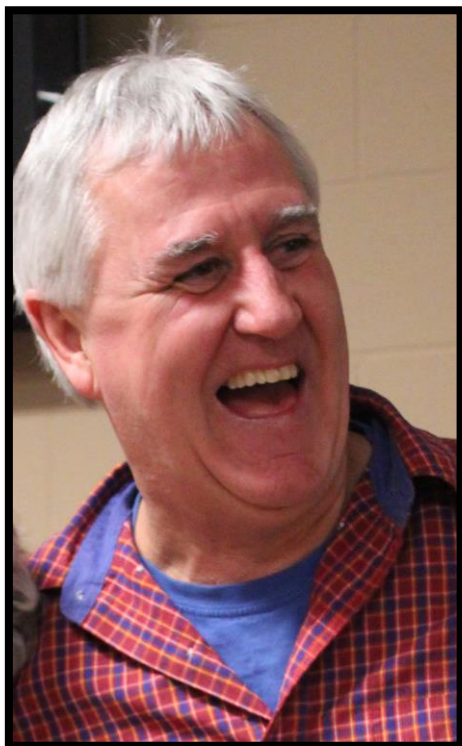
At this point Rod stood up and declared, "I'm not selling it!" However, the bidding continued until it reached \$500. "Stolen!" declared Glen. "Start the car!"

Joe Jackemack, friend and longtime manager at the old club on Clergy Street, paid tribute to Rod's dedication and talent and called for a toast to Rod, for his friendship of 42 years.

Mark Potter, Rod's friend since childhood and well-known in the Kingston community as a sports broadcaster and long-serving president of the International Hockey Hall of Fame, acted as master of ceremonies and delivered a hilarious accounting of his and Rod's many (mis)adventures growing up in Portsmouth Village.

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‘Keep fighting the good fight’



Rod enjoys a laugh at Championship Night 2014.

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“If I had to choose one word to describe Rod, it would be ‘fearless,’” Potter said, recounting how Rod once contradicted NHL enforcer Dave ‘The Hammer’ Schultz to his face and another time had the chutzpah to ask his waitress on a date – and 35 years later, they are still together.

“Rod was a tremendous athlete, an outstanding goaltender, a very good pitcher for the Ponies and in curling, an icemaker. He has never been a guy who is afraid to decide the outcome of a game.”

Potter described Rod as “old-school”, a self-taught ice maker who never had any certification. And when the club decided finally that he should be certified, Potter recounted that five minutes into the five-day course, the instructor exclaimed to Rod, “You should be leading this course!”

“He is also one of the only ice makers anywhere who is certified to sharpen stones and that speaks to his ability.

“Rod genuinely cares about the club, and cares about the members, that they have good ice to play on. Even in his darkest days in the hospital, he was always concerned about what was happening at the club.

“I have never met a guy in my life who was never afraid of anything,” Potter continued. “He has really demonstrated that in the last couple of years as he has fought his illness.

“Whether it’s playing sports or playing poker, I’ve never met anybody as fearless as Rod Leeder, and that’s the way he’s been fighting his illness.

“He never once said, ‘Why me?’, he never felt sorry for himself, he’s never shed a tear.

“We’ve been best friends for over 50 years and we’ve pulled hundreds and hundreds of all-nighters and I thank him for the thousands of laughs. I have very thick skin, thanks to Rod. We have shared so many great times, and I hope we’ll have more in the future.

“I’ve never met a friend who has my back the way Rod has. Thank you for being a friend to me. Thank you for being a friend to all of us.

“Keep fighting the good fight.”



Brother Glen Leeder holds up Rod’s “lucky” goalie stick for an impromptu auction.

Sign up now for the 13th annual RKCC Golf Tournament

By Steve Hulton and John Ryce, Co-convenors

Join us for the 13th annual RKCC Golf Event on Thursday, June 21, 2018. Attendance is limited to only 144 spots for golf (additional spots for dinner).

This event is an important and fun fund-raising event for our curling club. The event will feature 18 holes of golf (scramble format) with plenty of prizes and the ever popular steak and salmon BBQ supper at RKCC after golf.

The cost will again be \$75 for golf with cart and dinner (\$35 for golfers who are members of the Glen Lawrence Golf Club).

We are looking to fill the event, so please make early plans and sign up at RKCC (lobby sign up sheet in place).

Also last year the prize distribution process was changed to enable an earlier conclusion to the day and this was very successful in speeding up the process.

There will be a change to the payment process this year. There were a number of late cancellations last year, which resulted in a cost to RKCC for green fee payments to The Glen as well as food costs due to non-attendees. We are instituting a pre-payment plan this year to mitigate this kind of loss.

Full payment of \$75 will be expected to be made at RKCC **no later than June 10**.

You may sign up any time during the curling season and make the payment at the bar at the time of sign-up or anytime prior to the end of curling season. Or you can sign up during curling season and pay at the manager's office at RKCC after curling season, but either way payment must be received prior to June 10 to confirm your place.

Royal Kingston Curling Club:
Annual Mixed Golf Tournament

Thursday June 21, 2018
Tee Off: 1:00 pm
Glen Lawrence Golf Club

TICKETS: \$75pp
Purchase tickets at the Bar by June 10!

Includes:

- ⇒ Golf (18 holes & Cart)
- ⇒ Roast beef and Salmon dinner at RKCC
- ⇒ Dinner only \$35
- ⇒ Prizes

(No Tickets Sales at Glen Lawrence)

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In the event of a rain out, the golf portion of the fee (\$40) will be refunded, but the dinner will still be held. If this happens, there will be social/fun day events held at RKCC during the day (more on this later).

Also, if a late cancellation is necessary (i.e., illness, unexpected situation) a request for a refund can be made to Steve Hulton, Manager, RKCC.

This year Steve Hulton and John Ryce, President of RKCC will co-chair the event, so any questions, concerns, suggestions can be made to them.

Volunteers Needed:

We are also looking for two additional volunteers to assist with the organization of the event. We would welcome your assistance in this regard.



Above, 'Intelligent Life at RKCC', winners of the best costume, from left: Dave Bracken, Deb Wilkin, Michael Flowers and Linda Lott.



Winners of the Empire Life trophy, from left, skip Carole Rivington, third Pierre Vanderhout, second Debby King and lead Kevin Pereira.
Photo by Kimberly Barker



From left: Andrea and Michael Berry, Susan Hara and Mike Olive.

60th Empire Life Bonspiel out of this world

By Erwin Batalla

The 60th Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel took place on Saturday, February 10. There were 22 teams participating in this one-day points' spiel. The winners were the team of Carole Rivington, Pierre Vanderhout, Debby King and Kevin Pereira. Edward Gibson awarded them the Bonspiel trophy on behalf of Empire Life, our sponsor for the past 60 years.

The theme was "space" and several curlers were in costumes at the evening dinner. The Star Trek motif was in evidence, but the best costume belonged to Linda Lott's team. It was entitled "Intelligent Life at RKCC". Prizes were awarded at the dinner, a buffet served by Ramekins.

The bonspiel was a success thanks to the efforts of Shirley Kwakkenbos, Alexandra Simmons and April Welsh. They were assisted by Sandy and Ian Duncan and Garry and Mary Dupuis in the kitchen. Mary also stepped in for an injured player. Hugh Pollitt-Smith handled the program and flyer and Erwin Batalla was the drawmaster. Rick Pim provided the challenging trivia quiz. Door prizes, delivered by Pam and Roger Taylor, were lovely baskets provided by Laurie Alton of Expedia Cruise Centers.

As usual, the RKCC staff was immensely helpful in making this event possible. We extend our thanks to the icemakers, Gene Miller and Kevan Welch, the bartenders at the 'Barship Enterprise', Gerry Buist and Kaitlyn Welch and the manager, Steve Hulton.

In all, it was a wonderful day of curling and fun. Live long and prosper.

EL look forward to Carrie Cole playoffs



Photos by April Welsh

By April Welsh

The Evening Ladies' section has had a very good year. We had 17 flight teams, up two from last year. Our final three club draws have each had a full slate of 12 teams.

The winners of the second Club draw are (photo above left):

(L-R): Denise Mulville (skip), Gay Chamberlain (vice, sparing for Lisa Mulville), Christine Sweetnam (2nd), Giselle Cross (lead)

Runners-up: Linda O'Sullivan (skip, sparing for Donna Smith), Liz Baer, Marge Craig, Mary Graham.

2nd Event: Judy Russell (skip), Pam Power, Mary Andrews, Mary Treier

3rd Event: Nancy Roantree (skip), Sylvia Myers, Beth Giberson, Vicki Mitchell

The winners of the third Club draw are (photo above right):

(L-R): Sue Chamberlain (lead), Lisa Mulville (vice), Mary Graham (lead), Judy Russell (skip), Bonnie Arlt (2nd).

Runners-up: Celia Russell (skip), Pat Thompson (for Kim Shames-Jung), Mary Kelly, Sue Chamberlain (for Alicia Kinch)

2nd Event: April Welsh (skip), Kimberly Barker (for Tensia Cannon), Christine Sweetnam, Lisa Chandler.

3rd Event: Denise Mulville (skip), Sylvia Myers, Liz Borges, Laurie Winter (for Leslie Comfort).

Once the fourth draw is complete we will begin our Carrie Cole playoffs to determine our section Champion, who will compete against the Day Ladies' Champion on Championship Saturday, April 21.

Dates to remember: Wednesday, March 14 is our "Bring a Friend Night", starting around 6:45 p.m. The ladies' closing dinner is on Wednesday, April 11, hosted by the Day Ladies this year.

Our Evening Ladies' General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 9 at 7:15 p.m. Our executive is looking for replacements for Denise and Susan as Flight Convenors. These two have done a wonderful job for three years and would like to move on. They would be happy to mentor their replacements. The EL and DL are looking for a Ladies' OCA rep to replace Linda O'Sullivan, who is also retiring. Thank you Denise, Susan and Linda! The Vice Chair position is still vacant.

The 2018-19 Executive (so far) to be ratified. Chair – April Welsh; Vice Chair – VACANT; Past Chair – Deb Wilkin; Secretary – Mary Buchanan; Club – Liz Baer and Carol Fitzpatrick; Flight – VACANT x2; Social – Laura Brown and team; OCA – VACANT.



B Division GKC champions Nils Lintner, Max Hannah (skipping for Joel Degroote), Luke Degroote, and Tim Vankughnet.

Photos by Kimberly Barker



Logan Bedard from the age 6-8 category won the provincial Hit, Draw & Tap competition.

RKCC youth do the club proud

By Kimberly Barker

The Greater Kingston Curling Championship was hosted at RKCC on the February 3. Three divisions of curling teams competed for their final playoff game. The competition began at 8 a.m. with Garrison 2 playing Garrison 1 for a playoff position in the A event. RKCC 2 had a bye in this event and lost to the Garrison 2 team, putting them in the B event against the RKCC 1 team. In the A event Garrison 2 competed against the Cataraqi team, with Cataraqi becoming the Champions of the Greater Kingston Curling Youth Competition. Congratulations, Cataraqi. B-event congratulations go to RKCC Team 2: Max Hannah skipping for Joel Degroote, Nils Lintner, Tim Vankughnett and Luke Degroote. Their opponents were skip Kaidynce McQueen, Alex VanStrien, Emma Hoover, and Morgyn Knetsch. The C event teams were Garrison 1 playing their final game of the year against Napanee, with Napanee becoming this year's winner. Congratulations to Team Napanee!

Also on this day was the Recharge with Milk Ontario Men's Tankard in Huntsville where one of our Little Rocks, Logan Bedard from the age 6-8 category of the Hit, Draw & Tap Competition, after making the Leader Board across the province of Ontario, had the opportunity to compete again. Initially, Logan had to be in the top 10 of over 650 children. Then of those competitors, there were at least 10 children from across the province vying to win the overall provincial championship trophy for this competition at the Tankard event. The results and bragging rights were given to Logan Bedard of RKCC for becoming the trophy winner of the Hit Draw Tap competition 2018 for all the province of Ontario. We believe his parents are so very proud of this accomplishment and our RKCC facility will now have a new provincial championship title to hang on our wall. Congratulations, Logan, for helping us to inspire the youth program at RKCC.



From left, winners of the Lefty McDonald Seniors' Major League from RKCC: Tom Bryant, Mike Braun, Mike Schneider (skip) and Reg Gore with the Lefty McDonald Championship Trophy

Photo provided

Team Schneider takes Lefty McDonald Seniors' Major League championship

By David Allan

The Lefty McDonald Seniors' Major League playoffs wrapped up on February 13, with the Mike Schneider team of Royal Kingston capturing the 2017-18 championship. The RKCC team, with Mike Braun throwing fourth rocks, defeated club-mates and defending champions, the Garth Mitchell team in a close match that went down to last rock.

The Schneider team advanced to the final with a victory over the Ivan Suddergaard team of Cataraqui in the 1 vs 2 Page game. Mitchell defeated the Mark McDonald team of Cataraqui in the 3 vs 4 game and then the Suddergaard team in the semi-final. Mark McDonald won the Bronze Medal game over the Suddergaard team.

The 'B' event saw the Andy Palmer team of Napanee Curling Club defeat club-mates the Ian Munro team. The Palmer team had defeated the Munro team in the 1 vs 2 Page game to advance to the final. The Munro team then defeated the Dave Allan team of Cataraqui in the semi-final to earn a rematch in the final against Palmer.

Thanks to all the fans that showed up for the final games and for your support throughout the year. Also thanks to the Cataraqui ice staff and bar staff for another good year.

Bonspiel Chair seeks replacement

By April Welsh, Bonspiel Chair

It is hard to believe the season is almost over! The Whig Standard and Empire Life spiels were

very successful, with excellent attendance. The Grandmothers and Great Aunts Bonspiel (March 28) and the Famous Fisherman's Bonspiel (April 5-7) are our final invitational spiels of the year. Please participate or volunteer where you can. Our numerous in-house spiels continue to promote curling, camaraderie, and generate income.

I am looking for a replacement to assume the role of Bonspiel Chair at the end of this season.

If anybody is interested in taking on the position, I am happy to explain the role. Briefly: Your main role is to make sure convenors are aware of what is involved in running a bonspiel/fun day. I have summaries that are sent out to all new convenors.

Once the initial contact with convenors has been made, you act as a liaison between convenors and the office (either the manager or our accountant). The occasional article in the Sweep is informative for the membership although convenors should be providing summaries.

Note: You are not responsible for finding bonspiel convenors or helping during bonspiels (unless you want to).

I have enjoyed my three years as Chair and am willing to act as a resource person for the new Chair.



Dazzling debut

The team of, from left, skip Christy Gilmour, third Debby King, second Sylvia Myers and lead Sherill Miller dazzled in the Denim and Diamonds bonspiel on February 23.

Photo by Brenda Charette

Biters

The Curling Committee is beginning the process drawing up the new calendar for 2018/19.

Championship Draw Schedule and Weekend. The first draft has draws at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Friday, April 20. Dinner will be served by Day Men between 4:30 and 6 p.m. On Saturday, April 21, there will be two final draws at noon and 3 p.m., followed by cocktails at 5:30, dinner and awards at 6:30 and a closing dance from 8 p.m.– midnight.

Evening men's memberships. Report that although 42 men have not returned to RKCC this year for many reasons, including the loss of a second night for Club curling, there have been over 40 new male members. According to Steve Hulton, overall RKCC membership is up this curling season at RKCC.

The Membership Committee will be sending out an email survey to gauge satisfaction with this season's new schedule and leagues.



Top left: DL Draw 2 winners were Lola Cole, Sharon Windsor and skip Linda O’Sullivan. Missing from photo is Marg Craig. Above: Draw 3 winners were, from left, Linda O’Sullivan, Val Malmsten, Wendy Curtis and Lois MacArthur. Left: Donna Jeffery’s team of Maria McGibbon, Cathy Hamilton and Mary Dupuis won the ‘Queen of the Castle’ bonspiel in Picton.

Photos provided

Day Ladies’ winning season winding down

By Marilyn Wilson

Congratulations to the winners of Draw 3: Skip Linda O’Sullivan, third Val Malmsten, second Wendy Curtis, and lead Lois MacArthur. And belated congrats to the winners of the Fanset Trophy for Draw 2: skip Linda O’Sullivan, third Sharon Windsor, second Marg Craig and lead Lola Cole. Draw 4 is well under way now as we await the final team to make the Carrie Cole play-offs, starting March 27.

The day was merry and bright for the Day Ladies holiday mini-spiel on December 6. Peals of laughter and groans of despair rang from the barn, followed by much merriment and good cheer during a festive lunch. The winners were the team of Donna Jeffery, Sue McConnell, Deb Kennedy, and Virginia Flynn. And on February 23 an In-Club Rated Bonspiel entitled “Denim and Diamonds” was held. The winners were skip Christy Gilmour, vice Debby King, second Silvia Myers, and lead Sherill Miller. Many thanks to Pat Thompson, Deb Emerton, and Brenda Charette and their crew for organizing these opportunities to enjoy both curling and camaraderie.

The Day Ladies Flight League is now into the third round of their schedule, which ends March 14. The top four teams in Divisions A and B will each participate in a page playoff format to determine the winners of each Division. The winners of Division A will play-off against the Evening Flight winners on Championship Night.

On February 17 the team of Donna Jeffery, Mary Dupuis, Maria McGibbon and Cathy Hamilton from RKCC won the “Queen of the Castle” Bonspiel at the Prince Edward Curling Club in Picton. They returned home with crowns to prove their victory.

Our Grandmothers and Great Aunts Bonspiel will be held on March 28 with the theme of ‘Treasured Memories: Classic Bedtime Stories’. To date 17 teams have registered, so be sure to sign up online on the RKCC website before March 8. We always welcome volunteers to assist on that day, as well as to contribute items to the continental breakfast, so contact Kathy Jackson at kj1@queensu.ca.

Emil Lindt inspires by example

He has been a curler for 21 years, and RKCC member for 15 and a woodworker for as long as he can remember.

Emil Lindt is a talented craftsman who built the six oak planter/room dividers in the lounge and over 15 sturdy benches, 12 of which can be found at the ends of each sheet of ice.

He built the planters in 2007, based on photographs brought back from a golfing trip by the late Betty Bush. The planters are on casters, hidden by a hinged panel. They can be easily moved for different room configurations and then locked in place. “My grandson helped me a little bit,” notes Emil proudly.

The benches were made at the request of then president Roy Vasey and are the perfect size for perching on to replace a gripper, without obstructing the limited space at the end of each sheet.

Emil is always creating something in his home workshop, whether a shelf for hanging cups, bookcases, picture frames or tables, like the one he is currently making for his son.

Born in Slovakia, Emil came to Canada from Germany, to which his family had been displaced during the war, in 1952 at the age of 19. Ironically, he met his Scottish wife Mary at a German club. They had been married for more than 51 years when Mary passed away last September.

Emil started curling in Colborne, Ontario, in 1997 at the age of 65, after his son was introduced to the game. Timothy didn’t stick with it, but Emil has curled almost every year since. He took a two-year hiatus after being diagnosed with chronic bronchitis in 2015, but in 2017, with his portable oxygen pack, he thought, “Why not try it?” Now he is out on the ice with his delivery stick and trusty oxygen pack two or three times a week – and on the shuffleboard court next door at Centre 70 or in Napanee just as often. He missed the game and the camaraderie and the competition as well. He can name all of the bonspiels in which his teams have come out on top (most often with the Breen brothers) and proudly points out his name on the prestigious men’s club trophy, under skip Ron Cameron.

He is most proud, however, of the beautiful planters and benches he has made for the club. But Emil’s inspiring example and his determination to keep doing what he loves are as much a part of his legacy at the club as his sturdy little benches and the polished oak planters.



Try curling on grass: lawn bowling

By Tim Hochban

It's my first game of the year. My first shot....crap...not hard enough, just over the hog line. Adjust . . . oops, too hard, right off the rink.

Luckily my skip and vice had better luck and with timely draws and takeouts we managed to score three on the first end and went on to win our first game! All in all, a good game; my only regret was that I did not wear my wide-brimmed hat and got too much sun on the back of my neck.

Looking for a way to continue the enjoyment of curling throughout the summer? The Kingston Lawn Bowling Club would like to invite you to our open house on Saturday, June 2, 2018 anytime between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Lawn bowling is a low-impact, social sport essentially identical to curling in the basics of the game. Players throw their shots from the hack (mat) towards the button some 21 - 27 meters away. The shots curl towards the button (jack) or go straight, depending on the weight thrown, using the correct turn (bias) and if they take the correct ice (grass). Teams alternate shots, with one team having the last shot or hammer. Scoring is exactly the same as curling. The team winning the end loses the hammer in the next end, but gets to determine the location of the hack and the location of the button (jack). The most interesting aspect of the end is that the button (jack) is a ball, so it moves if it is hit by shots as they are made. Imagine making a perfect draw to the button only to have the next player hit the button and push it back to where his previously long shots are now the counters!

Come out to our open house and give the game a try, or even sign up for a no-cost, no-obligation lesson from one of our coaches. Bring your spouse, your kids or even your grandkids. We all play together. There is so much more to say about this addictive summer sport. Visit our website <https://kingstonlawnbowlingclub.weebly.com> for more information or send an email to kingstonbowls@gmail.com or give me a call at (613) 583-4736.

Hope to see you on the ice (grass) this summer.

Tim Hochban has been a member of RKCC for the past 10 years or so. Last summer he joined the Kingston Lawn Bowling Club and found it was the perfect way to keep the curling fun and competition going all summer. In their first year in the sport, he and fellow RKCC member Pierre Vanderhout participated in the Provincial Novice championships in Toronto.

